LETTER 9

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LETTERS

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From the Farvey of M. SAVARY.

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ALTIKA ELSTINE

LETTERS

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E G Y P T,

CONTAINING,

A Parallel between the Manners of its ancient and modern Inhabitants, its Commerce, Agriculture, Government and Religion;

WITH

The Descent of Louis IX, at DAMIETTA,

EXTRACTED FROM

JOINVILLE, AND ARABIAN AUTHORS.

TRANSLATED

From the FRENCH of M. SAVARY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

SECOND EDITION.

VOL. - L

LONDON:

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MDCCLXXXVII.

TARBER OF USE PREPARE



TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

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TRANSPATOR'S PRESADE

THE great attention and labour bestowed upon the present translation of these Letters, and the remarks which in the course of it have presented themselves, seem to require the following short account of what has been done.

Finding, on consulting a few of the quotations in the French, various errors had crept into the text, most of which, probably, and many, certainly, were errors of the press, it was thought necessary to refer to the original authors: those, therefore, who shall think proper to compare the translation with the French, will find many deviations in the quoted passages; but, if they shall please, further, to refer to the Latin, Greek, and Acabic writers, cited, it is prefurned, they will find such deviations are not errors, but corrections. We mean not to affirm mistakes may not still exist; though we fearcely can hope fufficient credit will VOL. I.

be given for the labour bestowed in searching voluminous books to find a fingle quo-The industry with which M. Savary tation. has read the ancients, to obtain information on his subject, assonishes the reader, but it were to be wished, by those who are inclined to refer, and examine the accuracy or spirit of the passages cited he had continually noted his editions, books, and pages of for that they might have been turned to without trouble. Not aware, ourselves, of the numerous quotations which were to follow in the fecond volume we neglected this method, in the first, and continued so to do, partly for the fake of uniformity, and, partly, in deference to M. Savary; neither indeed could we obtain every author, or find every passage he has cited; therefore it was, in part, impracticable see antitre see and begin in

Were we to note our deviations, and support them by citing the passages in question, our presace would assume the form and length of a differention; we shall only say, therefore, we rest our justification on the passages themselves; and, imagining we shall not, often, at least, be detected in have

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- Ingesinjured wither author by our cinendations,
-we trust we shall rather deserve appliate than
years and distribution of The mount of the control of the

noite The spelling of words translated from lahi guagest little known, as the Coptic and Arabic are, into French, and thence restrant lated into English, is a difficulty frequently found very embarrashing; not is the French itself, in this work, always confistent. This we must plead in excuse for those few places: where we have committed the like fault. The French fpelling usually endeavours at the original pronunciation; to give which, in English, the spelling should be very different. In some few places this has occasioned us to vary from the original, but, in most, we have not dared, left we should feem to diffigure names which the eye has been accustomed to see written in another matther. Thus the words Gachef, and Eccherif, are, as we suppose, pronounced Cashef, and Eksherif; Boular is Boolac , Gibel is Jeebel; Makaout is Malawee, &c. The village of Sementoud is, by an error of the French, not detected in time, fpelt Samment, on the map. We be-· lieve no other error of this kind is committed, related by Tookorus Siculus (lib. fing except to trifling anto be immediately feeto and corrected, by amintelligent readers and no Our calculation of the weight of the gran pite in the note byol. IL page 376 differs from that of M. Savary; but if, instead of plan lowing with him the fidento be fixty feet high, fix feet are deducted for the thickness of the saling, which was of another from, the proq duct then will be nearly the same; and this deduction, we imagine, the author made, it is port. We have likewise adophede age outling Ancient measures are frequently reduced to French, by My Savarys; but as the learned do not all agree in their estimates, we have generally substituted a literal translation of the Greek and Latin writers quoted; and in fugh places, wied the stadium instead of the heian to the King of Prance; fire suggest

The words Ox and Bull, Bauf and Taureau, feem to have been used with a blameable indiscrimination, both by French and English writers, when speaking of ancient Egyptian deities. Apis is called the sacred Ox, by M. Savary, but it is evident this god was a Bull; he had a heifer presented him once a year, and the strange practice of the Egyptian women, related by Diodorus Siculus (lib. i.

sensizy, said menticed by Mr. Savary, is wifer? ther confirmation ille Milevis and Onophis are afteken tolsinwille! fame confuted manner, Sisw the year noticed sellis state of the savety shout if, inflead sired dawe have been obliged to use the word port make dane with M. Savary ; and api plyte to towns, "and willages," ficulated on the Whe, into which boats only, not this of the defort though, in English, it broadly implies leaport. We have likewise adopted his pelling of the word Khang productine Atabie prohanciation is Khalidge. we We mean hot to Beschillute, but with hot, after all our ingenerally full-flagger in The gentleman to which Mr. savary addaded his letters was M. Le Wonnell Phyl fician to the King of France; first physician to Monsieur, his Majerty's elder brother, and a member of the Academy of Sci-To graning an order to M. T. T. W. and Franch Each Letter aienthe intrials of his warne, land the mort eurogium at the conclusion of the work is highly to his honourd it thews to hild ithis way of the feet profited bid of safe year, and the strange practice of the Egyptian signen, related by Diodorus Siculus (lib. i. (ec.

. The work, in the French, is dedicated to Monfieur, eldest brother to the King of France; but we have omitted this dedication, because the mode of address is so different from any the English language is accustomed to that it would render a tranflation either ridiculous or full of Gallicisms.

The manner in which these letters have been received, both in France and England, is superior to any praise we can bestow; and we shall only say M. Savary possesses a degree of erudition, judgment, imagination and feeling which are feldom united.

and government of our own country." jed to the prejudices of education, and the empire of habit, while than remains in his naitve land, he will view other nations through a deceptive glas, which, changing their folds and colours, will tead his judge. ment attray he will be attentified at their errors, when he himself thall be thought to others equally great, "he will laugh at and ridicole their cuftoms, himfelf a flave to abfurdifles not less extravagant.

But, having attentively examined the manners and genius of divers people, and calculated PRE-

The work, in the Prench, is dedicated to "Monfileur," eldelt brother to the King of Frince Burdwe The office This ellicate tion, because the mode of address is so diff.

ferent from any the English sanguage is ac- it cu homed to that it would render a trans-to-station beiner fidheutous wiful of Gallielims.

RAVELS are the most instructive travelling teaches us school of man: the knowledge of our species; and, by living among different nations, studying their manners, religion, and government, rules may be obtained to estimate the manners, religion, and government of our own country. Subject to the prejudices of education, and the empire of habit, while man remains in his native land, he will view other nations through a deceptive glass, which, changing their forms and colours, will lead his judgment astray; he will be astonished at their errors, when he himfelf shall be tributary to others equally great; he will laugh at and ridicule their customs, himself a slave to abfurdities not less extravagant de bannon var

But, having attentively examined the manners and genius of divers people, and calculated is the detected of the circle of the circle of the same of the contract of the

Before he begins his travels 13 thorough knowledge of geography and history are pereffery at stepibni live first and carry theren where great exents have paffed; wthe latter bring nuthern 1.40 memory athus adoubly enlightened, mif the traverfest those neaffern countries where most astonishing revolutions have more than once, changed the face of the earth, wherever his footstops lead, each object will become animated it ruins mara blessq and mountains will freak, most rio quently, to his understanding and his heart. Here, beneath brambles, libe will read the following inscription with which his count try honoured the images of a herorid Star viatorali bergem splogs en This cliff hanging over the abyle of less, will rall to mind the fatal bluow

fatalnandbof are despitating Sapphoon whole by silie unelgy and midhality of her buetten Hertedolis hame bor the tenth Hitle 250 Herel thevinedancholy remains of two fambus selar publics will declace to methory than religion bled by the love of liberty, his four aggrand dized and every faculty of the body and midefiper feethored! d Frow mitherous war use His compations between what was and what is! How immense the chain of reconcerion? Handlowever, will only notice great actions, and prefent the readens with rapid shroker, where the part and prefert may clearly unite," where grabhibolicologiconfounded and where viAt beholding the magnificent monuments early tenreamit life sit restished fin estreet carowies nother enser's suit in steel whose steel wants daysoff all lancient nations, schave refifted! ther tavages continue: said people dwhod reemeds to labour for immortality, and among whome Orpheus, Home, li Herodotus, omandus Plate went to bhan this knowledge with which they entiched their mative land so Thow will heuregreed that wnd refforts 4000 the steamed have himeros removed the dvetp round the minereds harioglyphics of these wealthy teur generate which characters fatal would

would enlighten ancient hillory oand penhaps A caft a duminous cray tinto the darkhole and Thebes and Intrastation age of intradiction olo Becomes a citizen lof the world heutellrife fuperior to partiality and and while deferibing cities and countries awill give do truth the guidance of his penual But det him. then the fault of many other travellers, and hot make himfelf the principal figure in his picture, nor throw all the light on himfelf, and thade and obfcure the other parts and perfons elet bim avoid affectation, either to thew his superior knowledge or add weight to his opinions di Such fare the requifites he ought to possess who would trawell to advantage; and fuch the principles he should imbibe. To superior intelligence, and a spirit of observation, he must add that quick, deep, and penetrating fenfibility which alone can make himself or others seel effectually. Should he remain unmoved when he views the place where Pompey the great was, affaffinated; should the wonders of Egypt not ftrike him with aftonishment and admiration; should he not weep over the august ruins of Alexandria, and the loss. of 400,000 volumes, devoured by fire LET should

fould noty enthusiasmaseizerthim, abidesholding the oruins of Lacedamon, Athens and Thebes; lett him beware of writing: mature has not formed him to transmit those feelings whose sublimenimpressions, which chiefts for grand should inspire entire guidire mi Such fensations, Il imagine, I have had; but whether the have conveyed their with the force necessary to render my travels insteresting the public must determined alf the reader accompanies medwith pleasure, if the reality of my descriptions bring conviction, if the geographical and historical details instruct, dif the memorable events Ivcall to mind are apposite, and the parallel of ancient and modern manners be traced by judgment and reflection I shall have obtained the height of my withes, and all the fatigues, dangers and labours I have undergone will alone can make himfelf.bebrawer friquesiedtually. Should he remain unmoved when he views the place where Pompey the great was affaffinated; should the wonders of Egypt not firike him with aftonihment and admiration, should be not weep over the august rains of Alexandria, and the loss of 400,000 volumes, devoured by fire; LETthould

faculd not enthydada feize him, at he. heading the ruins of Locedangon, Athens and Thones; let him beware of writing: nature has not followed him to trusfinit those feeting, thole that he impressions, which

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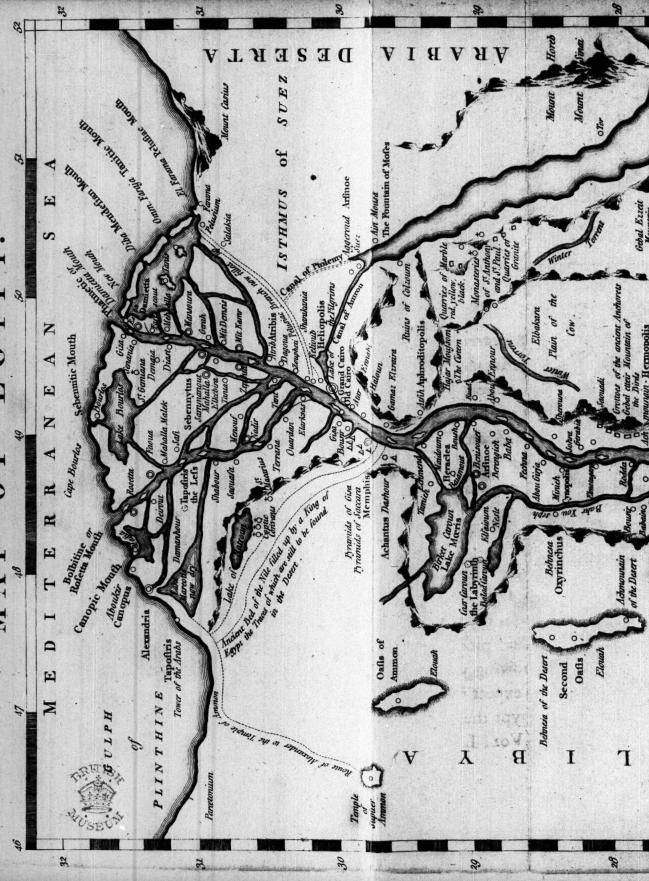
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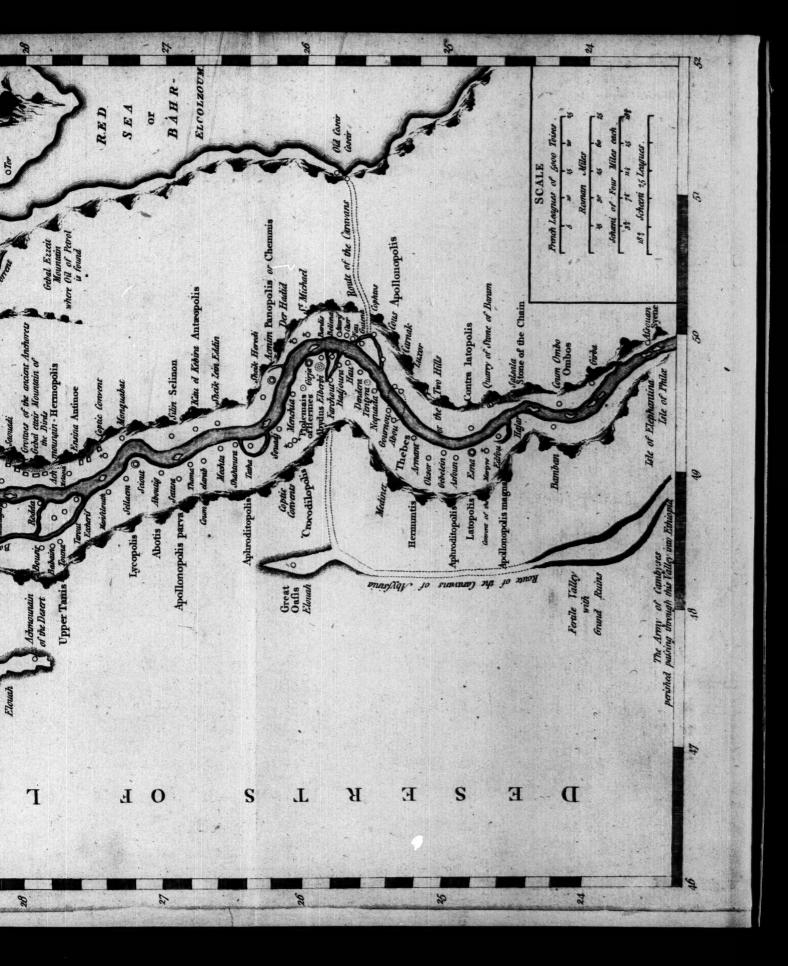
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MAP OF EGYPT.





LETTERS

ON

E G Y P T.

LETTER I.

A general description of Egypt, and of the changes it has undergone from the most remote antiquity to the present time. Enquiries concerning the topography of the country, the labours of the Pharoahs to turn the channel of the Nile, and the original formation and gradual enlargement of the Delta.

To M. L. M.

Alexandria, July the 24th, 1777.

You complain, Sir, of my filence, and claim my promises. "Where," say you, "are those pictures of Oriental manners, which, knowing your inclination to observe, I was led to expect? What! have you been traversing Egypt these three years, and not written one Vol. I. B word

word concerning a country the most celebrated the earth contains?"

Such, Sir, are your reproaches. pleased to recollect the advice which you yourself gave me, when I left Paris, and in that you will find my justification. are going, young man, into a foreign country, among a people who will be new to you. Observe the influence of climate, "the power of religion, the imperious fway " of ancient customs, and the tyranny which "despotism exerts over suffering humanity; " in these you must find the history of their vices and their virtues. To facilitate this fludy learn the Eastern languages; live " among, and converse with, Greeks, Turks, " and Arabs; and, that you may fee them " fuch as they are, leave your prejudices he-"hind you. Be it your endeavour to paint "the people you behold after Nature; let "the Turk resemble himself, and do not " give us a picture of Paris instead of Grand " Cairo. on the east by the Rea Sea.

Such were the precepts dictated by your wifdom; your judgement gave them weight, your friendship rendered them dear to me, and they have never been forgotten. Three years of travel, pain, and labour, have been confectated to my desire to put them in practice; had I written sooner, I had been less obedient.

It appears necessary, Sir, first to describe the limits of Egypt, and those revolutions which time and the labours of man have effected; the map, which accompanies this letter, will be of some affistance to you in acquiring the first of these. To the authorities of the ancients, the discoveries of Father Sicard, Pocock, Niebuhr, and D'Anville, I have added my own observations. This last geographer, whose learned penetration could discover truth among the numerous contradictions of travellers, has often been of great service to me; nor do I ever quit him but in places which, he having never seen, it was impossible for him to avoid error.

Egypt is bounded on the north by the Mediterranean, by a chain of mountains, which feparate it from Nubia, on the fouth; and on the east by the Rea Sea, and the Ishmus of Suez; its western limits are the deserts of Lybia, in the midst of which stood the temple of Jupiter Ammon. Its greatest length is about two hundred and twenty-

five leagues, extending from Syene, which is fituated under the tropic of Cancer, to Cape Burlos, which is the most projecting land of the Delta, and almost terminates the 32d degree of latitude.

Drawing a line from the ruins of Pelufium to the tower of the Arabs, formerly called Tapofiris, we shall find its greatest width to be fixty-eight leagues; and this measurement agrees with that of the ancients, who computed fifty-four leagues, crossing the Delta from Pelusium to Canopus, and sourteen from Canopus to Taposiris. (a)

Egypt

(a) The base of the Delta, from Pelusium to Canopus, now called Alboukir, contained, according to Diodorus Siculus and Strabo, 1300 stadia, which we may estimate at 54 leagues; to which add 14 leagues from Canopus to the tower of the Arabs, and the amount will be 68 leagues. Herodotus reckoned 60 scheenas, that is to fay 80 leagues, between Mount Casius and the bay of Plintina, where Tapoliris stood. Mount Casius stands 12 leagues to the east of Pelusium; therefore subtract 12 from 80 and the remainder will still be 68 leagues from Pelusium to Taposiris. The two geographers, first mentioned, have evidently measured the same extent of country in a right line, and did not, like Herodotus, follow the base of the Delta; for, between the age of Herodotus and the time in which they lived, that part of Egyp

Egypt is divided into Upper and Lower; the former is a long valley, beginning at Syene, and ending at Grand Cairo. ridges of mountains, which take their departure from the last cataract, form the lofty outlines of Upper Egypt: their parallel direction is from north to fouth, till they reach Grand Cairo, where, separating to the right and left, the one stretches towards mount Colzoum, and the other terminates in fand-banks, near Alexandria. The former confifts of high rocks and cliffs, the latter of fandy hills, the base of which is a calcareous stone. Beyond these mountains are deserts, bounded by the Red Sea on the east, and extending over Africa to the west; in the centre lies that long plain the greatest width of which does not exceed nine leagues. Here the Nile rolls his waters between two infurmountable barriers: now filent and tranquil, following the course which nature and art have traced; and anon an impetuous torrent, red with the fands of Ethiopia, swelling, overflowing his banks,

Egypt had increased, by the immense quantity of fand which the course of the Nile carries with it; and, had they followed the sea-shore, the admeasurement would have been considerably augmented.

and spreading his waters over the country for the space of two hundred leagues. In this celebrated valley, man first sought, and first beheld, the light of science, whose radiance, diffusing itself over Greece, (b) has succesfively enlightened the rest of the world. This valley, though still as fruitful as in the happy days of Thebes, is much less cultivated; its famous cities are laid level with the dust; laws and arts have been trodden under foot by despotism and ignorance, and their throne usurped. with their ffreams brought fertility

Lower Egypt includes all the country lying between Grand Cairo, the Mediterranean, the Ishmus of Suez, and Lybia: skirted by arid fands, this immense plain, contains flips of land well cultivated, on the borders of the canals, and in its centre that triangular island to which the Greeks gave the name of Delta, formed by the two branches of

⁽b) Herodotus, Strabo, and Diodorus Sigulus, pofitively affirm the Greeks obtained most of their know-Thence it was that Orpheus ledge from Egypt. and Homer brought mythology, and the daughters of Danays the mysteries of Ceres. The Philosophers of Greece studied astronomy there, and their legislators the principles of government. oldegiven visamel the

the Nile, which divide at Batnel Bakara, (the Cow's Belly) and empty themselves into the fea below Damietta and Rosetta. This island. the most fruitful on earth, has lost much of its extent, fince the time when Canopus and Pelusium were its limits. (c) The eastern bulwark of Egypt having been destroyed by conquerors, and those who cultivated the earth becoming exposed to the inroads of the Arabs, the inhabitants have retired farther into the country. The canals, which with their streams brought fertility, are dried up: and the earth ceasing to be watered, and continually exposed to the burning heats of the fun, is become a barren fand. Scattered over the plains which formerly contained fruitful fields, and flourishing cities, (d) on the Pelusiac, Tanitic, and Mendesian arms, which all flowed from the Damietta branch of the Nile, we only find, at present, miserable hamlets, furrounded by date-trees, and deserts. These canals, formerly navigable, (e)

ledge from Evypt. Thence it 7 Hadillodart (2)

which stood in the eastern part of the Delta, are totally destroyed and rank has a said ymonoria beibust eastern.

⁽e) The Pelusiac, Tanitic, and Mendesian branches were formerly navigable.

bear little resemblance to their former state, and no longer communicate with the lake Menzala, except a very little while during the time of the inundation; they are dry all the rest of the year. By digging them, and removing the mud which the river has lest, since the Turks have been masters of Egypt, the country they traverse would become fertile, and the Delta restored to its ancient grandeur.

Having obtained a general idea of Egypt, please, Sir, to fix your attention on this rich country, and the changes it has undergone. Anterior to those times of which history preserves any certain record, a people descended from the mountains, which border on the cataract, into the valley the Nile inundates, (f) then an impracticable morass, overrun with reeds and bulrushes. After repeated, and often sataltrials, they discovered some salutary plants; among these were the lotus, (g) which Herodotus

⁽f) Herodotus, p. 40. Euterpe; Diodorus Siculus, lib. 1. and Strabo, lib. 17. all ascertain the same fact.

⁽g) The lotus is an aquatic plant peculiar to Egypt, which grows in rivulets, and by the fide of lakes; there are two species, the one bearing a white, the other

dotus calls the lily of the Nile; the reed we have named the sugar-cane, and which in this country has preserved its primitive appellation cassab, or reed; (b) the colocassium, (i) the onion, and the bean. Many years

a blueish flower. The calix of the lotus blows like that of a large tulip, diffusing a sweetness like the smell of the lily. The root of the first species is round, resembling a potatoe; and is eaten by the inhabitants who live near the lake Menzala. The rivulets, near Damietta, are covered with this majestic flower, which rises about two feet above the water. Mr. Paw affirms it is no longer found in Egypt, and describes a plant no way resembling the lotus. Recherches sur les Egyptiens & les Chinois, page 150. No wonder this learned man was mistaken, since most of the travellers who have been in Egypt never saw the lotus, which does not grow on the great canals of the Nile, but among the inland rivulets.

- (b) Some authors fay the fugar-cane was brought from India to Egypt; perhaps, the method of cultivating it only was brought. It feems to me to be a native of a country which produces many species of reeds, and where it grows wild. Its very name induces this belief.
- (i) The colocassium is a plant well known to botanists. It is particularly cultivated by the inhabitants of Damietta: vast fields overspread with its large leaves are seen near this city. Its root is in the form of a cone, and larger than that of the lotus, with a taste less insipid than the potatoe.

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passed away before they thought of cultiv vating these native plants; but necessity be gets industry of He to whom chance of or meditation, made any lucky discovery was a king, or a God. (k) Ofiris taught men? who till then were cannibals, to feed on the fruits of the earth, instead of human fleshes His, otherwise Ceres, instructed them in agriculture; and both were deified. The Egyptian Hercules, the most ancient of the heroes fo named, freed the Thebais from the monsters by which it was ravaged, and had altars erected to him. While the people of Upper Egypt were contending with wild beafts for their vast marshes, (1) the sea, according to the ancients, washed the foot of the mountains where the pyramids now stand; advancing towards the tower of the Arabs far into Lybia; overflowing a part of the Ishmus of Suez, and forming an extendi five bay, over the country we now call the Delta. But I shall pass these ages, and come to the times in which the Egyptians, fub-

either by raising banks, to secure their newly acquired lands or .24, quiling suroboid (4)

through

⁽¹⁾ Herodotus, Strabo, and Diodorus Siculus relate the opinion of the Ethiopians on this subject.

jected to religion and laws, dug canals, to give the stagnant waters of the Nile vent; raised high mounds, to oppose its ravages; and, weary of inhabiting rocky caverns, built cities, on hills thrown up by art, or nature. Boundaries were then prescribed to the river, and the habitations of men fecured from its torrents. (m) Experience taught them to foresee the season of inundation; and geometry, measuring the lands which industry had thus acquired, ascertained individual property. A mighty city rose in the centre of the Thebais, which it was the glory of succeeding kings to embellish. Such was the magnificence of its public structures that now, when more than four thousand years have elapsed, its very ruins impress the mind with awe and admiration. Thebes flourished ages before Rome was. Divided from the rest of the world by deferts, mountains, and feas, the Egyptians cultivated arts and sciences in peace; and their unremitting labours daily extended the limits of their empire, either by raising banks, to secure their newly acquired lands, or by cutting deep drains

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⁽m) Herodotus, p. 40. Euterpe.

through those which still were marshy. One of the kings of Egypt, probably forefeeing the consequences, undertook to turn the course of the river, (n) which, after meandering a hundred and fifty leagues between the mountains I have mentioned, came to an infurmountable obstacle, turned suddenly to the left, and, running fouth of Memphis, spread its waters over the sands of Lybia. This prince cut a new channel to the east of Memphis, raised a large mound, and obliged it to return between the mountains, and discharge itself into the bay that then bathed the rock on which the castle of Grand Cairo is built. The ancient bed of the river, and the mound which dammed up its en-

trance.

⁽n) The priests say that Menes, the first king of Egypt, built a bridge over the Nile, near Memphis; before which time the river, passing Mount Psammius, ran south of that city, and dissued itself over the Lybian deserts. Menes raised a mound a hundred stadia from Memphis, opposed its course, and forced it to return between the mountains; by which means its first bed became dry. At present, the Persians, who are masters of Egypt, repair this mound, which shuts up the ancient channel, at a great expence; having added new works yearly, and appointed troops, to watch and preserve it from injury. Herodotus, p. 55.

trance, were to be seen in the time of Herodotus. The Persians repaired the mound with great care; nor is the course of this ancient bed unknown even at present; it may be traced across the desert, passing west of the lakes of Natroun, by petrissed wood, masts, and lateen yards, the wrecks of vessels by which it was anciently navigated. The Arabs call this channel, which is now nearly filled up, Babr Bela Ma, (0) a sea without water.

Egypt is indebted for the Delta to the labours of this monarch. The enormous weight of the waters of the Nile, discharging themselves into this gulph, repelled the sea; and the sand and mire they carried with them, in their course, accumulated. The Delta, very inconsiderable at first, rose from the sea, by encroaching on its limits: it was the gift of the river. Agriculture and man came to its desence, by raising mounds. In the time of Mæris, who lived five hundred years before the Trojan war, the Delta was in its infancy; (p) eight cubits were suffi-

⁽⁰⁾ Great rivers are called by the Arabs Bahr, or fea.

⁽p) Herodotus, p. 41. Euterpe.

cient to overflow it entirely; they rowed over it in boats; and its towns, built on artificial mounts, refembled the islands of the Ægean sea. (q) In the age of Herodotus, fifteen cubits were necessary to overflow the Lower Egypt; but the Nile, at that time, inundated the country for the space of two days journey to the right and left of the Delta. Under the Roman empire, fixteen cubits produced fimilar effects; and when the Arabs governed, their writers speak of feventeen as the most favourable height. The standard of abundance, at present, is eighteen cubits; but Lower Egypt is no longer overflowed; the inundation goes no farther than Grand Cairo, and the neighbouring country. The Nile, however, often rises to two-and-twenty cubits. This phænomenon has been produced by an increase of mud, successively deposited, during fo many ages. Art has likewife contributed towards it, either by raising the lands most exposed to the action of the river, by multiplying its outlets, or by cutting canals, which gave free course to the waters.

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⁽⁹⁾ Strabo, lib. 17, p. 1136. Stodies to chire

Col Lhave twice made the tour of the Delta, during the time of inundation, fince I have been in Egypt, and have even croffed it by the canal of Menouf. The river. shough full to the brim in the great branches of Rosetta and Damietta, and those which sun through the interior parts of the country, only overflowed the land where it lay low, or where banks had been raifed to ftop its waters, and throw them over the rice fields. Thus, in the space of 3284 years, the Delta has rifen fourteen cubits (s) Yet we must not believe the conjectures of those travellers who suppose this illand will become higher, and incapable of cultivations being indebted, for its increase, to the mud which the course of the Nile

carried

channels of the Nile were both dug by the hand of

know whether the Greek, the Roman, and Arabian cubit were precisely the same, or what were the variations it has undergone, among these different people; which would be a thing very difficult to demonstrate. But this precision not being effectial to my subject, I shall content myself with relating facts and the testimonies of authors.

carried with it, and annually deposited, when it ceases to be inundated, this effect must likewise cease. It has been demonstrated that culture is not sufficient to raise land.

The present position of the Delta is the best possible for agriculture. Washed on the east and west by two rivers, which the Nile, in dividing, forms, as wide and deeper than the Loire, interfected by innumerable rivulets, it is one immense garden, the beds and compartments of which may all be watered. The Thebais is under water three months of the year; mean while the Delta posfesses fields covered with rice, barley, vegetables, and winter fruits: nor does it now, as formerly, resemble the Ægean sea, with her Cyclades. As far as the eye is capable of feeing, rich crops cover its plains, groves of date, orange, and sycamore-trees, streams, ever running, verdure, ever changing, and ever renewing, and abundance, which rejoices the heart and aftonishes the imagination. Ceafing to be overflowed, this island has a yearly gain of the three months during which the Thebais is inundated, for which reason, it is the only part of Egypt where the same field

yields a double crop of grain; the one of rice, the other of barley.

While it increased in height, you may well suppose, Sir, it augmented in length likewise; to prove which, among various facts which history has preserved, I shall select only one.

(t) During the reign of Psammetichus, the Milesians, with thirty ships, landed at the mouth of the Bolbitine branch, at present the branch of Rosetta, where they fortisted themselves, and built a city, which they called Metelis, now named Faoua, but which, in the Coptic vocabularies, is still called Messill. This city, which was formerly a sea-port, stands, at present, nine leagues from the shore; which space the Delta has lengthened from the age of Psammetichus to the present.

Homer, that sublime painter of nations and countries, whose geographic details are the most precious remains, of the kind, transmitted to us by all antiquity, makes Menelaus, becalmed on the Egyptian shore, speak thus. (u) "In the stormy sea that bathes the coast of Egypt is an island named Pharos, "whose distance from the shore is as far as

⁽t) Strabo, lib. 17.

⁽u) Odyssey, book iv.

"may sail in one day,"—And, again, Proteus, prophesying to Menelaus, thus speaks.

(a) "Destiny forbids that thou shouldest see thy friends, thy palace, and thy native land, till thou hast first returned to where the Egyptus (y), Jove-born, tells his water ters, and there hast offered becatombs to the immortal gods.—He said, and the best hest obliged me, with a broken heart, again to traverse that vast and stormy sea which separates the Pharos from the Egyptian continent."

Homer, who had travelled over Egypt (2), where he had learned that mythology, from the priests, of which he makes so beautiful use in his poems, describes the island of Pharos, which now forms part of Alexandria, as being twenty leagues distant from the shore of Egypt, at least; which opinion is accordant to that of the highest antiquity.

(*) Odyssey, book iv.

empris

Nileus, one of the successors of Mendes, who, after many labours to confine and impede its ravages, named it after himself. Diod. Sic. lib. is

⁽z) Diodorus Siculus.

bu What immense revolutions have great rivers occasioned on the furface of the globe! How do they incessantly repel the sea, by accumulating fand on fand! How do they raile up illands, at their mouths, which, in time, become part of the continent! Thus has the Nile formed almost all the Lower Egypt; and thus the Delta, which is ninety leagues in circumference, has rifen from its waters! . Thus also has the Meander, incessantly driving back the waves of the Mediterranean, and by degrees filling up the bay in which it disembogues itself, cast the city of Miletus far within land, though it formerly was a famous fea-port! Thus do the Tigris and Euphrates, descending from the Armenian mountains, fweep down the fands of Mesopotamia, and imperceptibly choak up the Persian gulph.

You have now, Sir, a general sidea of Egypt, and the principal changes which have happened there. I shall, therefore, proceed to be more circumstantial, and you will then perhaps think my narrative more interesting. Here, in the midst of Alexandria, fixed with astonishment at beholding monuments which neither the ravages of man nor time could yet destroy, weeping over the senseless reist VI

mains

mains of columns and obelisks which adorned its public squares and temples, here will I write to you concerning the city of Alexander, the Alexandria of the Arabs, and the miserable huts to which the Turks presume to give that pompous title. Barbarians! throughout their vast empire, they have stifled arts, sciences, cities, and kingdoms; and the name only remains of all those famous works, which their ignorance has left to perish, or their intolerable fanaticism has destroyed!

A Lexavoral of the rank of the point of the place where once if the place once if the pla

⁽a) Diodorus Siculus, who wrote at Rome under Augustus, calls Alexandria the first city of the world, sibr 17.

mains of columns and obelitks which adoing the its public fquar and temples here will I writes to you concerning the city of Alexan-

Alexandria, ancient, middle, and modern, with its monuments, and three harbours deficiled: its fuccessive revolutions under the Ptolemies, Romans, Greeks, Arabs, and Ottomans.

name only remains of all those famous works, which their ignorance has left to periff, or their intolerable Mod off off as defroyed down

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LETTER

A

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Alexandria.

ALEXANDRIA, Sir, is well worthy your attention. The rank it once held among the most celebrated cities (a), the learned men to which it has given birth, and the remaining monuments which, though two thousand years have passed away, still attest its former glory, have a claim on your curiosity. To gratify this I have been three months examining the place where once it stood. By reading the Greek, Latin, and Arabic authors, I shall be enabled to dis-

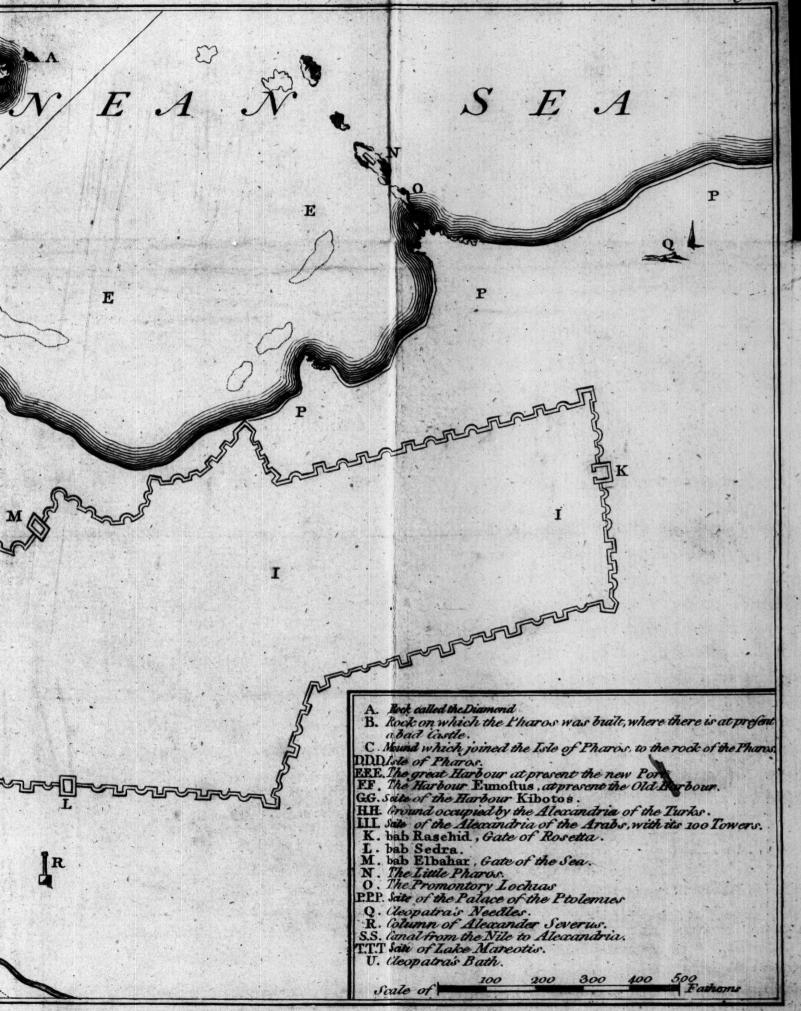
Augustus, calls Alexandria the first city of the world.

cover it beneath its own rubbish; and, by comparing their writings with what I my-felf see, trace out its plan. Is it not a melancholy, a painful, task, to seek a once famous city within its own walls?

Asia Minor subdued, and the pride of Tyre humbled, Alexander marched for Egypt, then groaning under the Persian yoke; he conquered it without a battle; the people, desirous to free themselves from their setters, received him, like a deliverer, with open arms. To preserve this conquest, so distant from his own kingdom, a fortress was necessary, which should contain a port capable of harbouring a powerful navy. Alexander bestowed on Egypt an advantage so precious; which till then it did not possess. The space which lay between Lake Mareotis and the excellent harbour formed by the isle of Pharos (b) he found proper for his purpose,

⁽b) Homer, as I have already shown, describes the isle of Pharos as standing at the distance of a day's navigation from the shore of Egypt, because at that time the Lake Mareotis joined the sea, and formed a bay. During the sive hundred years which elapsed between the time of Homer and the soundation of Alexandria, canals





and traced the limits of a great city, to which he gave his name; then visited the miracles of Upper Egypt, while the engineer Dinochares put his plan in execution. Alexander was gone almost a year, and, at his return, found Alexandria nearly finished. (c) He then peopled it with the inhabitants of the neighbouring cities, and pursued his conquests.

Alexandria was a league and a half in length, and one third as wide; so that its walls were about four leagues in circumference, (d)

canals had been cut over Lower Egypt; and the Lake Marcotis, into which the waters of the Thebais discharge themselves, withdrew so far, from the sea, as to form the slip of land on which Alexander built this city. When Cæsar, Strabo, Diodorus Siculus wrote, it bathed the walls. Under the Arabs, it retired half a league; and, beneath the destructive empire of the Ottomans, it has disappeared. A traveller who should at present visit Egypt, having read only Homer, would say with Madame Dacier, Pope, and many others of the learned, that his description of Pharos was merely the sport of the imagination.

(c) Quintus Curtius, lib. 4. cap. 8.

(d) Quintus Curtius fays they were 80 stadia, or 3 leagues one third. Pliny, 15 Roman miles, or 5 leagues. Strabo, 76 stadia, or 3 leagues and an eighth. Diodorus Siculus, 96 stadia, or 4 leagues.

C 4

and were washed by the lake Marcotis on the fouth, and the Mediterranean on the north. The streets, lengthways, ran straight, and parallel to each other; thus giving a free paffage to the north wind, which, alone, is healthy and temperate in Egypt. A street two thoufand feet wide began at the marine gate, and ended at the gate of Canopus, adorned by magnificent houses, temples, and public edifices. Through this extent of prospect the eye was never fatiated with admiring the marble, the porphyry, and the obelifks, which were destined hereaster to embellish Rome and Constantinople (e). This street, the finest the world ever saw, was crossed by another of equal width (f), thus forming a square, at the point of intersection, half a league in circumference, from the centre of which the two gates were feen, and vessels under fail, both to the north and been deposited (i) The intamous Scientino)

nent to the island of Pharos, of a mile long,

bosacamas

⁽e) It is well known the obelifks which are at Rome were brought from Alexandria.

⁽f) Diodorus Siculus, Strabo, lib. 17.

(g) which divided the harbour." The part north of the mole preserved the name of the grand harbour, and a mound, carried from the island to the rock on which the Pharos stood, secured it from the west winds. The other harbour was called Eunostus, or the good return. At present, the first is called the New Port, the second the Old. There was a bridge of communication between the mole and the city, built on high columns, funk in the fea, and leaving a free paffage to vessels. The palace began far beyond the promontory Lochias, and extended as far as the mound, occupying more than a fourth of the city. (b) The Ptolemies all contributed to its magnificence; and within its walls were the muleum, that alylum of the learned, groves, edifices, work thy royal majesty, and a temple where the body of Alexander, in a golden coffin, had been deposited. (i) The infamous Seleucus -inop pdt mort age gword sew Cybiolactes

sent to the illand of Pharos, of a mile long.

⁽g) This mole was named Hepta Stadium, because it was seven stadia, or one mile long.

⁽b) Strabo, lib. 17, fays it occupied a third.

⁽i) Perdiccas undertook to convey the body of Alexander to the temple of Jupiter Ammon, as he had commanded

Cybiolactes violated this tomb, carried off the golden coffin, and left one of glass in its Rend. The island of Anti-Rhode stood in the grand harbour; it contained a theatre and a royal palace. In the harbour of Eunoffus was another harbour, or dock, dug by the hand of man, named Kibotos, (k) which communicated with the lake Mare otis by a canal. Between this canal and the palace food the admirable temple of Serapis (1) that of Neptune was built near the grand fquare, where the market was kept. Alexandria extended itself still farther on the fouthern borders of the lake, and on its caftern fide was the gymnafium, with porticos more than fix hundred feet long, refting on feveral rows of marble columns. Without the gate of Canopus was a spaclous circus, for chariot races; and, beyond, the suburb of Nicopolis spread along the fea thore, like another Alexandria. A fuperb amphitheatre was built here, with a stadium,

commanded in his will; but Ptolemy, the fon of Lagus, having carried it off, depolited it in the palace of its foundation . Abulieda utes, the word LaibneselA

⁽k) Kiboros, The harbour of the Ark, Die oven I se

Arkhay which in Arabi a place, redsta (1) com deven

for the celebration of the Quinquennalia. (m) Such is the description which the ancients, and particularly Strabo, have left us of Alexandria; a city built three hundred and thirty-three years before Christ, and successively subject to the Ptolemies, Romans, and the Greek Emperors. (n) About the middle of the fixth century, Amrou Ebn el Ass, the general of Omar, carried it by affault, after a fourteen months fiege, which coft him twenty-three thousand men. Heraclius. Emperor of Constantinople, did not send a fingle veffel to its aid. There are few examples in history of a prince like this, who discovered activity in the first year of his reign, flumbered long afterwards in effeminate idleness, and, suddenly rousing at the fame of the conquests of Cosroes, the scourge of the East, put himself at the head of his armies, shewed himself a great commander the first campaign, ravaged Persia during

⁽m) Games celebrated once in five years.

⁽n) The tenth year of the Hegyra, and A. D. 651, was, according to Abulfeda, the year 994 after its foundation. Abulfeda uses the word Era, which, as I have faid in the life of Mahomet, is derived from Arkha, which in Arabic is synonymous to epocha.

with laurels, then, turning theologian conthe throne, loss his energy, and spent the
rest of his life in disputing on monothelism,
while the Arabs deprived him of the finest
provinces of his empire. Deaf to the cries
of the wretched citizens of Alexandrian as
he had been to those of Jerusalem, (4)
who had defended themselves for two years,
be suffered them to fall before the indefatigable, and fortunate Amrou potheir shave
warriors all perishing sword in hand, and

Aftonished at his victory, the conqueror wrote to the Caliph. "I have taken the "city of the west, the extent of which is "immense, and its miracles too numerous "for me to describe. It contains four thous" sand baths, twelve thousand venders of "vegetables, four thousand Jews, who

⁽a) Omar led the force of Arabia against Jerusalem, which its inhabitants defended with admirable constancy, and several times sent to conjure Heraclius to grant them succour; but, their prayers being fruitless, they were obliged to yield after a two years siege, without having obtained a single soldier from the Emperor, who sacrificed his time and treasures to establish a new sect.

sepay tribute, four thousand comedians,

od The dibrary, in which the careful Ptolemies had affembled more than four hundred thousand manuscripts, drew the victor's attention, who wrote to the Caliph for or4 ders in Burn them," replied the ferocious Omarookiif they contain only what is in the Koran they are ofeless; and dangerous if Stanyouthing more. Hat Barbarous fentence, which reduced to alhes the greatest part of the learned labours of antiquity! I Of what knowledge, what arts, what immortal works, did not this fatal conflagration deprive the world I w We lought, perhaps, to date that ignorance which spread a veil over countries that first gave birth to science from this fatal speriod has Let sus but suppose threefourths of the works Europe possesses suddenly annihilated, the art of printing unknown, and an illiterate people become masters of that fine quarter of the globe, and we can eafily imagine it again fallen into that barbarism which it has been the labour out having obtained a fingle foldier from the Emperors

wo(p) Elmacin, life of Omar, p. 30.

of fo many ages to eradicate as Such was the fate of the East! one made exidence are still the such as the such as

Thus subjected to the Arabs, Alexandria gradually declined : the distance of the caliphs of Bagdad prevented their affording any powerful support to commerce and arts, and population daily diminished; thus, in the year 875, (q) the circumference of the city was reduced one half, the ancient walls were demolished, and those built which still remain. Their folidity, thickness, and the hundred towers by which they were flanked, have preserved them against the efforts of man, and the ravages of time. This may be called the Alexandria of the Arabs. which continued flourishing in the thirteenth century. (r) The equal intersection of its ftreets made it resemble a chequer; part of its squares and public buildings were preferved; its commerce extended from Spain

Tilling:

⁽q) This happened under the reign of Elmetouakkel, the tenth caliph of the Abassides, and the thirty-first from Mahomet. Elmacin. Ebn Toulon, then governor of Egypt, and who thought of rendering himself independent, built these walls.

⁽r) Abulfeda, Geographical Description of Egypt.

its canals were kept in repair, and its merchandize fent into Upper Egypt, by the lake Marcotis, and into the Delta by the canalof Faoua (s) The Pharos, wbuitt by Softrates, of Cnidus, containing feveral Rories and furrounded by galleries fupported by marble columns, shill femained. This miraculous tower, as Cafar calls it. was near four hundred feet high; on its fummit was a vast mirror of polished steel, (1) fo disposed as to present the image of distant vessels before they were visible to the eye. This admirable tower ferved as a fignal to shipping; it was lighted up, during night, to inform mariners of their approach to the Egyptian coast, which is so low that there is great danger of running a-ground before it can be feen. Alexandria in its decline, still preserved an air of grandeur, and magnificence, which excited admiration!

The Turks feized on Egypt in the fifteenth

century,

⁽s) It was built under Ptolemy Philadelphus.

⁽t) Abulfeda speaks of this mirror, mentioned by several Arabian authors, in his description of Egypt, and says, it was destroyed by the arts of the Christians, under the reign of Oualid, son of Abd el Melec.

century, (u) and this put a period to its glory. At that time grammar, astronomy, geometry, and poetry, were cultivated there; but the iron rod of the Pachas foon drove away these remains of the fine arts; a prohibition to export the corn of the Thebais gave a mortal blow to agriculture; the canals dried up, commerce languished, and the Alexandria of the Arabs was fo wholly depopulated that not a fingle inhabitant remained; the grand buildings they had abandoned fell to ruin, no one daring to repair them, under a government that made wealth a crime, and poor huts were built on the fea shore. The Pharos, which had been reckoned among the feven wonders of the world, was destroyed, and in its stead a fquare castle built, without taste or ornament, and incapable of sustaining the fire of a fingle vessel of the line. At present, in a fpace of two leagues, walled round, nothing is to be feen but marble columns, lying in

⁽u) Sultan Selim conquered Egypt in 1517, and the first act of this barbarous victor was to hang Thoman-bey, the last king of the Mamlukes, whose government had subsisted near 300 years, under the gate named Bab Zouila.

the dust, and sawed in pieces, for the Turks make mill-stones of them, or standing erect, firm and resistless by their enormous weight, together with the remains of pilasters, capitals, obelisks, and mountains of ruins, heaped on each other! Who, at beholding such precious rubbish, and recollecting the famous monuments of which they were once a part, can, in the affliction of his soul, refrain from weeping over them?

Modern Alexandria is a place of small extent, scarcely containing six thousand inhabitants, (x) but exceedingly commercial, which advantage it owes to its situation. It is built on the ground over which formerly the water of the grand harbour slowed, but which the retiring sea has now left dry. The mole, which was carried to the isle of Pharos, is now enlarged and become part of the continent; and the island of Anti-Rhode is the centre of the new town; it is known by an eminence, covered with ruins. The harbour of Kibotos is dry, and

⁽x) Ancient Alexandria contained 300,000 free inhabitants, in the time of Augustus; a double number of Javes may at least be added, and the amount will be 900,000. How prodigious the difference.

the canal that ran into it, from the lake Mareotis, has disappeared; the very lake itself, on the borders of which the papyrus and date_tree abounded, no longer exists; the Turks having neglected to repair the canals, through which the waters of the Nile flowed into it. Belon, a very accurate observer, who travelled Egypt some years after the Ottoman conquest, affirms that, in his time, the lake Mareotis was but half a league distant from the walls of Alexandria, and that it was surrounded by forests of palm-trees. (y) The fands of Lybia are, now, where once these waters were! To the destructive government of the Turks must we attribute these deplorable changes.

The canal of Faoua, the only one which still runs to Alexandria, and without which it could no longer be a town, fince it has not a drop of soft water, is half filled up with mud, and sand. Under the government of the Romans, and even of the Arabs, it was navigable all the year, and fertilized the plains it traversed; its banks were shaded by

⁽y) Belon, Description of Alexandria. This writer travelled in Egypt fifteen years after the conquest of Selim, about 250 years ago.

date-trees, covered by vines, and embellished by pleasure houses. (2) The stream only slows now about the end of August, and there is scarcely sufficient time to fill the reservoirs and cisterns of the town; the lands, it once made fruitful, are now become de-

(2) The following passage of Abulfeda will confirm what I have said. "No prospect can be more agreeable "than that of the canal of Alexandria: gardens, groves, and an eternal verdure, adorn its banks; as Dasard et el Hadad thus has described them, in these beautiful "verses.

"How pleasant are the banks of the canal of Alexandria! When the eye surveys them the heart is rejoiced! The gliding boatman, beholding its bowers,
beholds canopies ever verdant; the lovely Aquilon
breathes cooling freshness, while he sportful ripples
up the surface of its waters; the ample Date, whose
flexible head reclines like a sleeping beauty, is crowned
with pendent fruit."

Oua khalig Elescanderié ellati iatiha men el Nil men ahsan el mentezhat laenno daiak Makdar el janebin, bel Besatin oua sih iecoul el Hadad:

Ou ashié ahadet l'ainak menzara
Ja efferour bo le calbak ou afda
Roud le mekhadder eladar oua gedaoual
Nakashet aleih id ech chemal mebareda
Oua-l-Nakhl Kelghid el hassan tezainet
Oua lebes men atmarhen calaïda.

DEW.

Abulfeda, Description of Egypt.
D 2 ferts.

ferts, and the groves and gardens, around Alexandria, have disappeared, with the streams that watered them; a few trees only are seen without the walls, thinly scattered, of sycamore, sig, the fruit of which is delicious, dates, the caper shrub, and the souda, or kali, which spread a partial verdure over burning sands, the sight of which is insupportable.

Yet are not all tokens of the ancient magnificence of Alexandria effaced; its cisterns, vaulted with great art, which were built under all parts of the city, and its numerous aqueducts, are almost entire, though they have remained two thousand years. Towards the eastern part of the palace are the two obelishs, vulgarly called Cleopatra's needles, (a) of Thebaian stone, and containing numerous hieroglyphics: one is thrown down, broken, and covered with sand; the other still rests on its pedestal; each, cut from one single stone, is about fixty seet high, and se-

⁽a) Pocock supposes they stood before the Temple of Neptune, but this temple was built near the harbour of Eunostus, and the obelisks are half a league farther, towards the promontory Lochias; where, according to Strabo, the palace was built.

ven square, at the base. Near the gate of Rosetta are five marble columns, in the place where the porticos of the gymnafium stood; the remainder of the colonnade, the ranges of which, a hundred years ago, might be traced, (b) has been destroyed by the barbarism of the Turks.

A column of red granite, standing a quarter of a league from the fouth gate, particularly attracts the attention of travellers; the capital is Corinthian, with undented, smooth, palm-leaves; it is nine feet high; the shaft and the upper torus of the base are one fingle block of ninety feet long, and nine in diameter; the base is about fifteen feet square. This block of marble, fixty feet in eircumference, rests on two layers of stone, held together by lead; which could not prevent the Arabs from forcing feveral of them out, in fearch of an imaginary treasure. The whole column is a hundred and fourteen feet high, and still preserves a perfect polish, except a little chipped toward the east. Nothing can equal its

D 3 majesty !

⁽b) Maillet, Description of Egypt.

majesty! At a distance, it is seen predominant over the city; and, at fea, ferves as a fignal for mariners: near, it creates aftonishment, mingled with awe: the spectator is never weary of admiring the beauty of the capital, the length of the shaft, or the grand fimplicity of the pedestal; and, I am perfuaded, were this column transported and placed before the palace of our kings, all Europe would come and pay their tribute of admiration, as to the most magnificent monument on earth!

Travellers, and men of literature, have made many fruitless attempts to discover to what prince it was dedicated: the most intelligent have thought it could not be in honour of Pompey, fince Strabo and Diodorus Siculus have not mentioned it; they therefore remained in doubt, from which Abulfeda, in my opinion, might have relieved them. He calls it the column of Severus, (c) and history informs us this Emperor

(c) Oua escanderié ala shat bahr elroum, oua beha elmenarat el mashhoura, oua beha Aamoud Severi.

Alexandria is built on the fea shore, and possesses a famous Pharos, and the column of Severus. Abulfeda, Description of Egypt. vifited

visited Egypt, (d) appointed a court of justice in the city of Alexandria, and deserved well of its inhabitants. This column was a mark of their gratitude; the greek infcription, half effaced, but visible on the western side, when the sun shines on it, was no doubt legible in the time of Abulfeda, and contained the name of Severus. Neither is this the fole monument erected to him, by the gratitude of the people of Alexandria; in the midst of the ruins of Antinoe, built by Adrian, is a magnificent column, the inscription on which still subfifts, dedicated to Alexander Severus. Half a league fouth of the city is the descent into the catacombs, the ancient asylum of the dead. Winding alleys lead to the subterranean caverns where they were deposited. The suburb of Necropolis (e) extended thus far.

⁽d) The Emperor Severus came to the city of Alexandria, and granted the people a fenate, which, till then, had been under the authority of a fingle Roman magistrate, having no national council, but, as in the time of the Ptolemies, the will of the prince was then law. The benefactions of Severus did not end here, for he changed several laws in their favour. Spartianus Vita Severi, cap. 17.

⁽a) The city of the dead where there are gardens, temples, and stately mausoleums.

Advancing toward the fea, we come to a large bason, hewn in the rock which stands on the shore; two handsome apartments have been cut in the fides of the bason, with banks crosfing them; into these the sea water runs, as clear and transparent as crystal, through a canal, dug with angular turnings to retain the fand; and here I bathed. When feated on the rocky bank, the water rifes somewhat above the middle; the feet reft on a foft fine fand; the waves are heard, roaring against the rock, and foaming through the canal; they enter, raise you up, retire, and, thus passing and repassing, bring, with water continually fresh, a coolness most delicious, under a fky fo fultry: This is vulgarly called Cleopatra's bath, and there are ruins which denote it was formerly embellished.

bringing some of those memorable things to recollection which have happened in this city. Imagine you behold yonder mount, near which Cæsar, firing the arsenal of the Alexandrians, consumed a part of the Ptolemean library. At the entrance of this port, repulsed by his enemies, he threw himself, armed, into the waves; and, ever master of himself.

felf, ferefeeing the numbers of the flying would presently fink his ship, swam to one more distant: his presence of mind saved him, for his veffel and all on board were swallowed up. Yonder Cleopatra, famous for her beauty, her talents, and arts, enfnared the hero, awhile restrained his ever restless ambition, and, lulling him in the bosom of vo-Suptoufness, led him in her train, up the Nile, at the very moment he ought to have fet fail for Rome, the gates of which were in danger of being for ever shut upon him. Befide these columns, melancholy mementos of the gymnasium, the haughty queen of Egypt, feated on a throne of gold, received, in presence of the wondering world, the title of wife to Antony, who there facrificed fame to love. Lost in pleasures, having suffered the moment of conquest to escape, she caused herself to be bit by an aspic, he sell upon his fword; and thus, in death, afforded a memorable example to posterity.

Where yonder rubbish lies the museum stood, once the asylum of sciences. Appian, Herodian, Euclid, Origen, Philo, and a multitude of other learned men, cultivated them there. Ignorance and barbarism have now overwhelmed

overwhelmed the country of the fine arts, which nothing but some prodigious revolution can ever restore.

This is a long letter, Sir; I shall therefore forbear to add observations on the manners and trade of the people of Alexandria: these will find a place hereafter, and I hasten to quit a city where one exists in the midst of ruins, where every object inspires grief, where the inhabitants are a mixture of Moors and Turks whose crimes have expelled them from their country, where the Bedouin Arabs come and rob you in open day, and where, in fine, nature, dead eleven months of the year, decks herself in a momentary verdure only to inspire lasting regret !

I have the honour to be, &c.

उन्नार केन्द्रा तर्ने का जन्म दिल्ला कार्य कार्य कार्य है। and Miles of managerian balling aftermists. शिववर्त हाल में बोल होते माला में के उस्तानिक इस लिए The compression and appropriate Color and regionalist Dra that violitation to attain doddwad ordinadiadalaa songaangl LET-

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LETTER III

The route from Alexandria to Rosetta, across
the desert; with the description of Alboukir, formerly Canopus; the famous temple
of Serapis; the festivals held there; the
dangers of the desert, and the delightful
environs of Rosetta.

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TRAVELLERS, Sir, who go from Alexandria to Rosetta by land, leave the canal of Faoua on the right, pass near the ruins of the grand circus, and, on the lest, meet with the remains of Nicopolis, a suburb which was embellished by Augustus, after his victory over Antony. Here, for the space of two leagues, nothing is to be seen but heaps of rubbish, burying the precious remains of antiquity. Coasting, afterwards, beside the sea, the prospect extends on one hand over waves, and on the other over sandy fields, of melancholy and arid uniformity, which

Control 1881

which is here and there interrupted by datetrees. The Bedouin Arabs bring their flocks to feed here, during winter, and, in fummer, gather fouda (f) in heaps, burn it, and fell the after to the inhabitants of Alexandria. who export it into Syria, and the isle of Crete, where it is used in making soap. These wandering Arabs, on the first tidings of a revolution in Egypt, mount their horses, infest the high roads, and plunder travellers. Six leagues from Alexandria is the Madia, (g) where there is a ferry, at the farther end of the canal of Canopus, which, taking its departure from Faoua, falls into the lake Behera. This lake is seven leagues in circumference, and empties itself into the sea, near Alboukir, (b) which small town is the ancient Canopus. Its distance, fix leagues from Pharos, and its fituation, on the fea shore, perfectly agree with the description the ancients have given us of Canopus. Pliny, who had collected the authorities of

antiquity,

⁽f) Kali, fouda, or glass wort, is a creeping plant which grows in the sands.

⁽g) Madia, in Arabic, fignifies the passage over a lake, or river.

⁽b) This place is called Bekier, by mariners.

antiquity, fays, it was formerly an island, which the aspect of the place makes credible; the land lies so low, in the neighbourhood, that the sea covered it, in part, in Strabo's time. (i) The city, built on a rock, which forms an excellent road for shipping, was secure from inundation.

Canopus was named after the pilot of Menelaus, who died there; (k) his tomb was to be seen in the age when S. Epiphanius wrote. The pleasantness of its situation, its temple of Serapis, and the cunning of its priests, rendered it one of the most samous places of pilgrimage in Egypt; multitudes came there from the most distant provinces, and especially from Alexandria. Licenticus-ness reigned, during these session, led the pretended worshippers of their God thither. The priests were not less eminent as physicians than as interpreters of the oracle: skilful in restoring their exhausted patients by persumed baths,

antiquity

⁽i) Kali, fouca, or gials we retidil, oders (i)

⁽k) Strabo, lib. 17. Diodorus Siculus, S. Epiphanius, lib. 4. cap. 3, a There authors confirm the opinion of Homer, who makes Menelaus land in Egypt. Odyssey, lib. 45 m (d. 2014) & ballet a configuration of the configur

in renovating an injured stomach by nutritive and succulent food mingled with spices, and in heating their imaginations by voluptuous pictures, they succeeded in reanimating the half lost senses. Their cures, all attributed to Serapis, were registered, and this dazzled the people and encreased their celebrity. Never had Divinity more adorers; never had priests more offerings.

(1) Strabo assirms, the canal, between Alexandria and Canopus, was loaded, night and

(1) Canopus contains a temple, dedicated to Serapis, where distinct adoration is paid to this God, in whom the very best people have faith.—Some of the priests are employed in writing the miraculous cures, performed there; others the oracles, which are there pronounced; but the thing most astonishing is to see the prodigious concourse of people, who come, from all parts, to the seasts of Serapis, down the canal of Alexandria, which is, day and night, covered with boats, full of men and women, who sing and dance with extreme licentiousness. Strabo, lib. 17.

These pilgrimages which existed in the time of Herodotus are still continued; the Pagans went to the temple of Serapis, the Turks go to the tombs of their santons, and the Copts to the churches of their saints; all abandon themselves to mirth, nor has Turkish gravity abolished the wanton songs and dances which seem to have originated with the Egyptians.

day,

day, with boats, containing pilgrims whose songs and dances seemed inspired by libidinous disorder, and frantic joy. This canal is at present dry, during one part of the year; and the ruinous town consists only of huts, and a castle, provided with a few pieces of artillery, to defend the road.

Passing the ferry, Madia, we come to a caravanfary, the fole asylum, against these burning heats, to be met with during a journey of fourteen leagues. Beyond lies an extensive, barren, plain, where neither verdure, tree, nor shrub, are seen; the eyes are half blinded, by a torrent of light; the skin parched by the fiery sun. Eleven columns, erected at proper intervals, direct the traveller across the defert, where the wind agitates the fand hills till they refemble the waves of the sea. Woe be to the man who, in the midst of this desert, is overtaken by the noon day whirlwind! If he has not a tent to shelter himself, he is overwhelmed in drifts of burning dust; which, filling his eyes and mouth, deprive him of breath and life. The wifest way is to make this journey by night; and then, at break of day, the traveller difcovers the palm and sycamorefyramere-trees (m) which adorn the banks of the Nile, and presently arrives at Rosetta, bathed in sweat and dew.

When, after a long abode in the centre of roins, and a most satisfying journey, one sinds one's self in the midst of a pleasant city, surrounded with groves and verdure, how does the soul dilate! How is it disposed to enjoy all the beauties of nature! Such is the traveller who, quitting Alexandria, comes to inhabit Rosetta: escaped all the horrors of the desert, he thinks himself transported into another Eden, where every object is the symbol of abundance.

Rosetta, called Raschid by the Arabs, stands on the ancient Bolbitine branch, to which it has given its name. It was founded in the eighth century; (n) the increasing stand

⁽m) The Egyptian sycamore produces a fig, which grows on the trunk of the tree, and not at the end of the branches, and which, though somewhat dry, is eaten. This tree becomes exceedingly large, and tusted; it seldom grows straight, but is generally bent, and twisted; its branches extending very far, horizontally, afford excellent shelter; its leaves are divided, and its wood, impregnated with bitter juice, is not subject to be wormeaten. The sycamore grows several ages.

⁽n) Neither Father Sicard, Pocock, Nieburh, nor any other traveller have fixed the time of the foundation of

fand banks of the Nile no longer permitting thips to fail as far as Faoua, this new city was built at, though now two leagues distant from, the mouth of the river. Abulfeda informs us it was an inconfiderable place in the thirteenth century, (o) nor had it greatly increased two hundred years afterwards; but, when the Ottomans added Egypt to their conquests, they neglected to repair the canals; and, that of Faoua ceasing to be navigable, Rosetta became the store-house of the merchandize of Alexandria and Cairo. Trade foon made it flourish, and it is now one of the pleasantest towns in Egypt. It spreads along the western bank of the Nile, and is nearly a league in length, and one

of Rosetta. Elmacin, p. 152, informs us it was built during the reign of Elmetouakkel, Caliph of Bagdad, about the year 870, and under the pontificate of Cosmar, patriarch of the Jacobines at Alexandria. M. Maillet allows it to have been built only a hundred years, and thinks it replaces Canopus. This is an error. Prosper Alpinus has committed the same fault.

(o) Raschid balide ala garbi el Nil el garbi and mesabbo fil babr. Rosetta is a small city, built on the western bank of the western branch of the Nile, near its mouth.

Belon, who travelled in Egypt in 1530, says Rosetta was smaller than Faoua: at present it is one half larger than that city.

fourth as wide. No remarkable square is seen here; no street persectly straight; but the houses, built with terraces, standing afunder, and kept in good repair, have a pleasing air of neatness and elegance. Within, they contain vast apartments, where the air has free circulation through a great number of windows, kept always open: the lattices and transparent blinds break the fun's rays, and thus render the light mild, and temper the excess of the heat. The only remarkable public edifices are the mosques, the lofty minarets of which are built in a light, bold, stile, and produce a picturesque effect, in a town where the roofs are all flat, by throwing variety into the picture. Most of the houses have a prospect of the Nile and the Delta; a truly magnificent one! Vessels and boats, some rowing, some under fail, continually cover the river; while the tumult of the port, the mirth of the mariners, and their noisy music, present a scene ever moving, ever alive. The Delta, that immense garden, where the exhaustless earth is never weary of producing, affords an eternal view of harvests, vegetables, flowers, and fruits, in fuccession; the abundant variety variety of which, at once, gladdens the eyes and the heart. Various species of cucumbers, delicious melons, the fig, the orange, the banana, the pomegranate, all grow here, all have here an exquisite flavour. Yet how much might culture increase their excellence, did the Egyptians understand engrafting.

North of the city are gardens, where citron, orange, date, and sycamore-trees are promiscuously planted; though this disorder is negligent, the mingling of the trees, and the arbours they form, impenetrable to the sun's rays, together with the flowers scattered among them, render these groves most enchanting.

When the atmosphere is all on fire, when the big moisture courses down every member, when gasping man pants after cool air, as the fick after health, with what ecstacy does he go and respire under these bowers, and beside the rivulet by which they are watered! There the Turk, with his long jasmin pipe wrought with amber, imagines himself transported into the garden of delight which Mahomet promised: thoughtless, in tranquil apathy, he smokes the sun down, void of desire, void of ambition; his calm passions never cast one curious look towards suturity:

that reftless activity by which we are tormented, and which is the soul of all our knowledge, of all our works, is to him unknown; content with what he possesses, he neither invents nor brings the inventions of others to perfection: his life, to us, seems a long sumber; ours, to him, one continual state of intoxication; but, while we are ever pursuing happiness which ever cludes our grasp, he peaceably enjoys the good that nature gives, and each day brings, without troubling himself concerning the morrow.

Here, in these gardens, the young Georgians, fold into flavery by barbarous parents, quit, with the veil which covers them, that decency they observe in public. Freed here from all constraint, they cause lascivious dances to be performed in their presence, sing tender fongs, and relate tales, and romances, which present an undisguised picture of their manners, and pleasures. Born in a temperate climate, they receive from nature a foul of energy, and tumultuous passions; brought afterwards into Egypt, the fire of the atmosphere, the perfume of the orange flower, and the emanations of aromatic plants, voluptuously invade every sense: then does n nathage one one fole care employ, one fole defire torment; them; one only predominant want is felt; the violence of which is encreased by the restraint under which they are kept.

The principal wealth of Rosetta flows from commerce. The transportation of foreign merchandize to Cairo, and of the productions of Egypt to the port of Alexandria, gives employment to a great number of mariners, their veffels are called scherms; (p) a light kind of boats, with lateen-fails, and which, having no deck, are very hazardous; a gust of wind, coming unexpectedly, turns them on their fide, and they founder. The Bogaz, (4) for fo they call the bar at the mouth of the Nile, is a dangerous shoal for them; the waters here drive and struggle to find passage into the sea, and, when the wind freshens, the waves run mountainhigh, forming whirlpools, which engulph vessels. The Bogaz is shallow, and, in the extent of a league, there is feldom more than

er energy; and directions selfions; brough

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⁽p) Scherm, expresses the swiftness with which these small vessels skim the waves; the sailors of Provence call them, by corruption, germe.

⁽q) The word, Bogaz, is descriptive of the agitation of the waves.

a passage of some sew fathoms for the vessels, which is continually changing: a boatman, or pilot, keeps founding, night and day, to direct the mariners what course they must fleer, who often are incapable, with all their art, to cope with the winds and waves; they miss the passage, get on a sand bank, and, in a few minutes, all is swallowed up in a vortex of water and mud. Numerous shipwrecks happen every year; there have been several fince I have been here. A large boat, richly laden, perished yesterday, on the bogaz; the paffengers leapt into the water; an old and feeble man clung to the mast, and disappeared with it; three young girls, after long struggling with the waves and current, were swallowed up; two robust sailors got ashore; a woman of thirty, who had tied a child she suckled round her with her fash, swam vigorously; the desire of faving her infant gave her fortitude; yet, after an hour's contention, against the violence of the sea, this affectionate mother was on the point of perishing, the victim of maternal love; the boatmen, however, perceived her, plunged into the Nile and hastened to her affistance; spent with fatigue, she scarcely could OF BUILD

could keep herself above water; but they swam beside, supported, and happily brought her on shore. These melancholy scenes are frequently renewed.

The bar of the Nile is totally closed, two months in the year, and the commerce of Alexandria interrupted; but, were it to become totally impassable, and were all the shipping of Egypt to be swallowed up, the Ottoman government would not remove one foot of earth from the canal of Faoua, to render it navigable. Committed to their care, every thing perishes, nothing is repaired.

I have many more things, Sir, to tell you concerning Rosetta; but, as I shall prolong my stay in this city, I shall wait till observation, and the society of its inhabitants, shall have still better enabled me to execute my task.

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printed partiting, the victim of thaternal every the South on showever, perceived her placed into the Mile and hastened to her attifuce. Then, we fairly a factorial

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with a knife, the foldiers with a slibret and two pittols. The grant and low rank whose clothing confits of an arriph due thitte and

Further remarks on Rosetta, its soundation, commerce, inhabitants, and gardens; with an account of the procession of the Psylli, or serpent-eaters.

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ROSETTA, Sir, may well excite the curiofity of a European, who sees so many new objects that he imagines himself transported into another world: men and nature, all he beholds is changed. A dead silence reigns throughout the city, uninterrupted by the noise of carriage; camels are the carriers here; nothing alters or disturbs the grave walk of the inhabitants; their long garments float down to their heels; the head is loaded with a heavy turban, or encircled by a shawl; (r) they cut their hair off, and let their beards grow. Sashes are common to both sexes; the citizen is armed

⁽r) They wind the shawl, sometimes made of silk, and sometimes of wool, in a long piece, round the head.

with a knife, the foldier with a fabre, and two pistols. The women of low rank, whose clothing confifts of an ample blue shift, and long drawers, cover their faces with a bit of cloth, having holes opposite the eyes; the rich wear a large white veil, with a black filk mantle, enveloping the body like a domino, fo that one would think them in mafquerade. A stranger scarcely dares look at them, to speak would be a crime; but these masks are liberal of their figns, and oglings; and, as this is the only language they are permitted to use in public, it is more expreffive, more copious, and in much higher perfection than in Europe : every thing is faid, every thing is wonderfully well understood, without opening the lips.

The country is as different from the neighbourhood of Paris as is Rosetta from a town in France. An immense flat, without hill or mountain, intersected by innumerable canals; corn fields; branching sycamores, whose unperishable wood preserves the mud-wall hut into which the husbandman retires during winter, for he sleeps under the shade in summer; date trees in clusters, or scattered over the plain, the pro-

dina

fuse fruit of which is nutritive, sweet, and salutary; the cassia, with stexible branches, decked in yellow flowers, and bearing a pod well known in Pharmacy; (s) orange and citron-trees unmutilated by the pruning knife, whose projecting odoriserous boughs form arbours impenetrable by the sun's rays; such, Sir, are the objects of the Delta, and such its principal trees and shrubs. Winter does not rob them of their soliage, they are apparelled all the year as if every month were May.

The land is a black foil, the fertility of which feems inexhaustible; ever productive and never fallow. The husbandmen have been preparing the rice grounds. Oxen, blindfolded, turn a machine, with buckets which empty water into a bason, whence it is diffused over the fields, where it is left to remain a week: when the earth is thoroughly soaked, men, women, and children, naked up to the waste, walk and sink

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and contains the cassia used in Pharmacy; the cassia of Egypt is much preserable to that of America, but, being dearer, is neglected by the druggists. The Egyptians use the cassia flower as a laxative.

deep into the mud, and easily free the land from the old roots. This work done, rice of a foot high is transplanted into the rice bed. (t) where, watered every day, its rapid growth is aftonishing. The grounds, on the banks of the Nile, and the canals, are planted about the end of July, and reaped in November; the sheaves are spread on the floor; a kind of low cart, with cutting wheels, drawn by two oxen, is driven, by a man feated on it, over the rice, and the straw is separated from the grain, which is afterwards winnowed; it is next carried to granaries, where there is a mill that frees it from the husk; and, thus prepared, it is mixed with falt, and enclosed in Couffes, (u) made from the leaves of the date-tree.

The rice grown round Rosetta is known by the name Sultani, and it is a mistake to suppose this rice is ever sent to Marseilles; being appropriated to the use and consumption of Constantinople, there are very rigorous laws which prohibit its exportation. The

god out of the discourse of the discours

⁽u) The word couffe is Arabic, and fignifies the oval panniers, made of date-tree leaves, in which the rice is enclosed,

at Damietta. A selection province and temple

As foon as the rice is down, the stubble is torn up, the land flightly dreffed, and barley is fown, which presently ripens. Those who prefer a crop of hay inundate the field, and fow it with lucerne, (x) which grows for fast that, in twenty days, it is a foot and a half high, and fo thick that its furface appears one folid verdure. It is three times cut before the feafon of transplanting the rice; thus, the fame field will either yield two crops, of grain, one of rice, the other of barley, or four, one of rice and three of hay. This fecundity is, however, peculiar to the Delta; where the land, lying lower than in the Thebais, may be watered all the year, by means of the canals and machines above-mentioned.

Rosetta has a manufactory of cloth: the flax of the country, long, flexible, and silky, would make exceedingly fine linen, did they know how to work it; but the spinners are very inexpert; their thread is coarse, hard, and unequal. The cloth bleached in the

animaids.

⁽x) The Arabs call it Barfin, it is the only hay known in Egypt.

clothes the common people.

One of my walks, round Rofetta, was to fee the castle built by the Mamluks, to defend the passage of the river. This is a square building, flanked with four towers, containing artillery wand stands, a league north of the town on the western bank of the Nile. Fronting it is a platform furnished with cannon; and thefe two forts, inconfiderable as they are. would be sufficient to impede the entrance of ships, if the Turks understood gunnery. Here however they are safe; Nature has been careful to defend the mouth of the Nile, by throwing up a dangerous bar, the terror of mariners; it would even be impossible for gun-boats to pass it, did not the boatmen of the bogaz ferve them as pilots. is and and le

South of the city, on the bank of the Nile, is a small eminence, in the midst of which, an antique tower, half buried, raises its head. A large semicircular bason, beneath, indicates a harbour, at present filled up. Some years ago, a Turkish merchant, by causing part of the rubbish to be removed, found twenty beautiful marble columns: this was to him an unfortunate discovery. The Beys, thinking

thinking he had carried off concealed treafures, pillaged him of his wealth. None of the learned, who have visited Egypt, have endeavoured to discover what city could have been built here. (y) M. D'Anville suspects the ancient Bolbitinum might have stood not far from the place where Rosetta is built; and he was not deceived, for the ruins I describe are near this city, and can only appertain to Bolbitinum, mentioned by Stephanus Byzantinus; which town gave its name to one of the mouths of the Nile.

This is a most picturesque place; the ruinous tower is surrounded by tombs; on the west is a desert plain, over the burning extent of which one cannot glance without shuddering; the flooding light, reslected from the sands, pains the fight, and the picture of sterility fills the mind with melancholy. But turn to the east and how wonderful the con-

in how how yester how their monor.

⁽y) Neither Niebuhr, Shaw, Pococke, nor Father Sicard, mention it. Maillet, who was an exact obferver, remarks there had been an ancient city in this place, which, he supposed, might have been Canopus; but the site of Canopus is so perfectly described, by Strabo, Pliny, Diodorus Siculus, &c. that there can be no doubt it stood where Alboukir now stands.

traft! How charming the view! Here the majestic river is covered with boats, and the Delta with all the graces of spring, the beauties of fummer, and the profuse richness of autumn; as far as the eye can fee are verdure, fruits, and corn fields. Is not this the picture of that Eden where the Creator placed the first of mortals?

You are acquainted with the Pfylli, those celebrated ferpent-eaters of antiquity, who sported with the bite of vipers and the credulity of the people. Many of them inhabited Cyrene, a city west of Alexandria, and formerly dependent on Egypt. You know the pitiful vanity of Octavius, who wished the captive Cleopatra should grace his triumphal car; and, chagrined to fee that proud woman escape by death, commanded one of the Psylli to suck the wound, the afpic had made. Fruitless were his efforts; the poison had pervaded the whole mass of blood, nor could the art of the Psylli restore her to life. Would you suppose, Sir, these serpent-eaters still exist? I myself am a witness they do, as you shall hear. Leaning Stevens, &c. wat there in the

The festival of Sidi Ibrahim (2) was last week held at Rofetta, and drew a valt concourse of people. A Turk permitted me to fee the procession from his house, where, feated at the window, I observed this novel fight with attention. The different trades gravely marched in files, each preceded by its banner; the standard of Mahomet borne in triumph followed, and attracted a prodigious croud; all were defirous to touch, kifs, or put it to their eyes, and those who obtained this favour, returned fatisfied; the tumult was renewed incessantly. After this came the Cheiks, priefts of the country, wearing leather-caps in the form of a mitre, and finging, as they flowly walked, the hymns of the Koran. A few paces behind them I perceived a company of men, apparently frantic, with naked arms, wild eyes, and enormous ferpents in their hands, which twined round their bodies, and endeavoured to escape.

Thefe

⁽²⁾ Our Lord Abraham. The Arabs, being descendants of Abraham, from Ishmael, hold him in great veneration, and keep an annual festival in his honour.

These Psylli, (a) seising them forcibly by the neck, avoided their bite, and, regardless of their hisses, tore them with their teeth and eat them alive, while the blood streamed from their defiled mouths; other Psylli struggled with them, to force away their prey; the contention was who should devour a living serpent.

The astonished populace followed, and cried—A miracle! They supposed these people inspired, and possessed by a spirit, which destroyed the effects of the bite of serpents. The description I have sent you is exact; the sight sirst terrified me, and afterwards led me to resect on man, that strange creature, to whom poison becomes food; that credulous being, who, blinded by his ignorance, cannot detect a fraud which is annually practised, but is prompted to worship one of his own species, who has art sufficient to deceive him. You perceive, Sir,

⁽a) The Pfylli, men of Cyrene, possessed a secret against the posson of serpents. Strabo, lib. 17.

Perhaps, by feeding on their flesh, they destroyed the effect of their bite.

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where that tyrant, custom, has particularly erected his alters and his throne.

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A NID row Sir, be pleated to image on gloon as made, then be pleated to image on gwo maded boat with an agreeable and a finalist, one hong with mais as worked. A test on the decis shades in the funds heat, and, thus reated, it endraward objects as they rule to view it is not objects as they rule to view it is not objects as they rule to view it is not and other north winds which blows and other north winds which blows intermission at this carries is a carrier with a carrier with a carrier was a carrier which the carrier was a ca

ancient usages are not lost, in a country:
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Voyage from Rosetta to Boulag. Observations on the manner of navigating the Nile, on the canals cut from it, the towns, villages and hamlets, built on their banks, the productions and cultivation of the country, and the customs of the inhabitants.

To M. L. M.

Rosetta, Oct. 1ft, 1777.

A ND now, Sir, be pleased to imagine me on board a mach, that is to say a large two masted boat with an agreeable cabin, and a smaller one hung with mats curiously worked. A tent on the deck shades me from the sun's heat, and, thus seated, from this charming prospect will I endeavour to trace objects as they rise to view. It is now one o'clock, the anchor is weighed, the sail swells and the north wind, which blows without intermission at this season of the year, with ease carries us against the current: briskly we cut the waves which whiten on the prow

of our fmall veffel. The high minarets of Rosetta diminish, and every moment new, and delightful views fix our attention. The shores of the Nile abound in reeds, the plains with corn; the rice is maturing for the fickle, and the wind, agitating its pliant furface, makes it refemble the waving motion of the sea; the husbandman, whose care it is to water the harvest, opens the sluices, or closes the dams at pleasure; the ox turns the noify creaking wheel which raifes the waters; distant cots and hamlets rife, and now and then a few houses of bricks, sun-dried; and now we behold a fmall mosque, with its minaret by turns concealed and feen among the tall trees, furrounded by the orange, the palm, and sycamore, every object seems to fpring from the bosom of profusion and verdure! We have already past various villages, and an island, on the banks of which water melons grow; of these we have made ample provision, for it is impossible to be satiated with them. Nurtured in a rich foil and ripened by a penetrating fun, here, amid these heats, their melting sweetness is most delicious; and, what encreases their value, most healthy; they may be eaten to excess, without

without danger of inconvenience. The island where we obtained them lies between the villages Berimbal and Meballet el Emir.

Youder we perceive a branching canal, which, quitting the Nile, goes probably and discharges its waters in the lake Bebira, through which there is a passage to Canopus; and now we arrive at Deyrout, a charming village on the western bank of the Nile.—
The sun declines, and his departing rays gild the towering minarets of Faoita, of which we have a twilight glimpse; we shall remain all night within sight of this city.

edi gnome nest bers be From on board, Oct. 2d.

Faoia is fallen from its ancient greatness; in the time of Belon (b) it was second only to Grand Cairo. The Venetians kept a Consul there, and merchandise was brought thither up the canal that leads to Alexandria; but, this being no longer navigable, Rosetta

fifteenth century, about fifteen years after the Ottoman conquest. This naturalist traversed the greatest part of the East, and imported various exotics into France. To him we are indebted for the evergreen oak, which, in the depth of winter, preserves a faint image of spring.

is now become flourishing, dand Faoils has loft, with tits commerce the fource of its splendor. I have taken a hasty survey of it. attended by the Janislary who accompanies me. Large ruinous buildings; squares, doaded with rubbillig brick houses, out of the pair; many mosques, deprived of allownament; but few inhabitants, and those poor; fuch are the melancholy remains of this ceelebrated city of the Milelians (c) Built in the neighbourhood of Canopus, and fontewhat infected by the fame immorality, the inhabitants permit profitutes to live in a public Kan, and wink at their diforders. They intercept paffengers, before whom they fing and dance, after the manner of their country: anothing can be more licentions than Atheir fongs, or more lafeivious wthan their looks and gestures. In the neighbourhood of this city flood Naucratis, which also was founded of Alexandria, near the canal wiensinglish Mit yet

of David Done of Being, and is called Deventur

The ever favourable north wind has forerun the dawn, and the mariners have unfurled their fails; and now with ease we cut the

I EL

⁽c) I observed, in my first letter, that it was the Milefians who built the city at present called Faous.

capid current, have already past several islands, almost under water and hamlets of which we caught an occasional glance, amidst the luxuriant verdure; already we are five miles from Faoua, opposite the mouth of the canal dug by Alexander, and which the negligence of the Turks has suffered to be in part filled up. Four leagues down its stream stands the little town of Damanhour, inhabited by Copts and Mahometans which is the Hermopolis Parve described by Ptolomy, Strabo places it beside the river, but we must understand by this the canal of Alexandria. Abulfeda has precifely marked its scite. (d) The neighbouring lands produce much flax, wheat, barley and cotton, which is an annual plant it refile , some bere

fome gliding with, and others ploughing against the stream; we hear the rude and

⁽d) Damanbour is a town of Egypt to the South-east of Alexandria, near the canal which runs thither; it is the capital of Behira, and is called Damanbour of the defert. (*) Oua men balad mast Damanhour. Oua hie still thank, oua-l-genoub en Elescanderie. Oua hie caadat elbehire. Oua leha Kalig Elescanderie. Oua taaref Damanhour el ouaehesh. Abulfeda Description of Egypt.

^(*) So called to diffinguish it from two towns of the lame name, it being not far from the defart in which are the lakes of Natroun.

noisy music of the maniners, who mingle their hearfe woices with the tumbour de bafque and the artless reed flute. These poncerts charm not the ear netodo they inspire the heart with gladness with And now herds of oxen low in the meadows; the hufbandmen people the plain to water their harvefts, the maidens come from the villages, to wash their linen and draw water; they dreft themselves beside the stream; their pitchers and their clothing die fcattered on the bank; they rub their bodies with the mire of the Nile, plunge into it, and sport among its waves. Several of them came (wimming round our boat, and crying ya sidi at maydi: Give me a medin, Sir. (e) They swim with grace, and their hair, knotted in treffes, fleats upon their shoulders; their skins are of a swarthy dark brown, but, in general they are exceedingly well formed, and the ease with which they fwim, against the rapid stream, is a proof of the force and agility which exercife will bestow, on the most delicate bodies. Thus the beauteous Nauficaa, (f) hav-

(f) Odysfey, book the 6th out I fain and bontane

worth three farthings.

ing washed her garments, bathed with her companions, when Ulystes unexpectedly Rood naked before them. (g) have stable with his

The wind freshens, and our bark swiftly cuts the tide; the torthous course of the Nile every moment presents us a new prospect; here a village losing itself in the distant hourizon, there a town, with a mosque and a grove of orange trees growing by its side; and every where dove houses, of a pyramidal form, in which innumerable flocks of pigeons are assembled. Fed on these fertile plains,

plunge into it, and foote-arrangerits; waves, (g) Ulysses was shipwrecked on the Pheacian coast, where, overcome with fatigue, he flept, among the brakes, on a bed of flowers; thither Nauficaa and her companions came, to wash their garments in the river, and, having bathed, amused themselves with throwing stones, one of them fell near Ulysses, who awaking, ran to the place whence the found of voices proceeded. At the fight of a man, who had no other covering than the bough of a tree, the female flaves all fled, but the daughter of Alcinous remained. With dignity the liftened to the unfortunate ftranger, gave him confolation, recalled her maidens, commanded them to wash and clothe him, in a tunic and a mantle. 'The poet has painted, with admirable art, in the person of Nausicaa, the noble dignity of birth and virtue, who, certain of herfelf, fled not at the fight of a naked man, and whom, being probably wretched, the might fuccour,

they are plumpfand, delicate, and only cost three, medine a couple another inhabitants manure their plantations of water, melons with their dung. Night draws on, and each takes to his arms, for the Nile swarms with pirates, who attack boats, under favour of the darkness, assassinate passengers, who are off the their guard, and seize their effects. We have cast anchor; the master collects his crew, and, with a grave deportment, relates marvellous tales; to which his circular audience slistens with filent attention.

in sale of the river, timacks his

We have lain all night between a small island and the mouth of the canal of Menous, which communicates with both branches of the Nile, this of Rosetta, and the other of Damietta, and obliquely intersects the Delta. It is fifteen leagues long, very wide, and navigable three months in the year. Four leagues down the stream, on its banks, is the pleasant city of Menous; (b) the capital of the province and the residence of the

⁽b) The Delta is divided into two provinces, in which two Beys refide. Menouf is the capital of the upper, and Mehala el Kebira of the lower; the first is called Menousia, the latter Garbia.

Bey. VinIt hande in the midst of fortile fields; sown with wheat, beans, a bamier, (i) aid doing ; 'fi') shaded by groves of ramanind and date-trees, and inhabited by flights wo bigeons, which, never hearing the terrifying explosion of powder, are as gentle, as one darkness, as affaste pessengersower.

By break of day the north wind had filled our fails, and we coasted among isles, the grass of which grows exceedingly high, and ferves as pasturage for buffaloes. The herdsman, seated on the withers of the foremost, descends the banks of the river, smacks his whip, and leads the way; the whole herd follow, and lowing swim to pasture, blowing the water from their large nostrils. During the summer heats they live in the

divisions, of a citton colour, and full of spicy seed.
When cooked with meat, this pod is very wholesome food, and very agreeable to the taste. The Egyptians are liberal of it in their ragouts.

(k) The Dourra, or Indian millet, is a tall plant with a reedy leaf; it bears a pod that contains much grain, of which the husbandmen make bread. Tournefort calls it, Milium arundinaceum plano alboque semine: Linnæus, holcus dora glumis villosis seminibus compressis aristatis.

Nile, lying among the waters up to the neck, and feeding on the tender herb that grows upon its banks. The cows yield abundance of rich milk, of which the inhabitants make excellent butter.

Our view is bounded, on the fouth, by a grove of dates and fycamores, behind which the lofty minarets of Terrana appear. This little town, built on the west of the Nile, is but eight leagues from the monastery of St. Macarius. Hither the natroun is brought, which is obtained from two lakes and much used by the Egyptians. Some miles higher, among the shade of palm-trees, we see the small port of Onardan; where Father Sicard burnt heaps of ancient manuscripts, deposited in a dove-house, pretending they were books of magic. (1) Thus, in a moment, blind fanaticism destroys the treasures of ages.

⁽¹⁾ The following passage is from Father Sicard. "I was informed that a dove-house, in this village, was filled with papers, containing magic characters, bought of fome religious Copts, and Schismatics: I performed my duty, without resistance, and erected the Jerusalem crucifix, which the Copts revere, with great devotion, in their stead." Lettres Edistantes, page 53.
By this it appears he there burnt these manuscripts, full of hieroglyphic characters.

The fun has half run his course, we have left Quardan on our right, and, if the wind continues, shall reach Boulac to-day. Not a village we pass but we see the children, of both fexes, exercifing themselves by fwimming: they daub themselves with mud; plunge into the water, and land but to dive again. Swimming is here the pleasure of necessity. Egypt being every where interseded by darge and deep canals, which are full of water in the time of inundation; it is often necessary to cross feveral of them, in going from one town to another; and, on these occasions, men and women strip themfelves of their light clothing, their fhirts and drawers, tie them like turbans round the head, and betake themselves to swimming. A European is furprized to fee the females preserving a small morfel of cloth to cover only their faces: a Turk could eafily explain this phænomenon.

We are arrived at the angle of the Delta where the Nile separates, and where it is two miles wide; the Arabs call this part of it Batn el Bakara; the Cow's Belly. And now, for the first time, we perceive the tops of the two great pyramids, which are

eight

eight leagues distant, and are gilded by the rays of the fetting fun: they resemble two pointed mountains, sloft in the clouds. Hail to these monuments, the most ancient of the works of menda. The werp light infpires religious awe la How many generations have passed away since these enormous piles have flood at the foot of that mountain where they still remain! The shades of night envelop them; and our failors, now near the end of their voyage, make the air resound with their riotous joy ; they light up the lanthorn, which is to prevent the veffel from being run down, and perhaps funk, by the innumerable boats which pass and repass, and we are riding in the midst of an ever varying illumination. It is now eleven o'clock, and we have cast anchor before Boulac, the port of Grand Cairo terret oring of brand lo

applies to himself the following texts:
You are the people on earth most excellent; your laws ordern equity, forbid
crimes, and you believe in God.
The Christians, unbelieving Jews, and

LET-

" idolaters

⁽m) The most represental epithet an Egyptian can affe in the two words Frank, which is the general denomination for Europeans.

eight leagues distant, and are gilded by the says of the setting sun; they resemble two pointed morphains Alar The Iolds. Hait to these monuments, the most ancient of the Verbeiroled right and ancient of the Verbeiroled right of latines additional phase redigerou, noitabnuol statis gainy samora sisting an ideal at the foot of that mountain the state foot of that mountain there they shall remain to the shades of night entered them, and M.J. M. of so were the

I HAVE now been nine months an inhabitant of Grand Cairo, that immense city,
where Europeans crouch in the dust, and
where the name of Frank is opprobrious.

(m) There the fanatic laws of Mahomet
reign triumphant, and the Mussulman, sunk
in ignorance, imagines himself the most sublime of beings: with secret satisfaction he
applies to himself the following texts:

"You are the people on earth most ex-"cellent; your laws ordain equity, forbid "crimes, and you believe in God."

"The Christians, unbelieving Jews, and

(m) The most reproachful epithet an Egyptian can use is the word Frank, which is the general denomination for Europeans.

" idolaters,

"but the faithful, who practife virtue, are "the most perfect work of Heaven." (n)

This oracle, which no one is to incredulous as to dispute, seeds their pride, and they tread under foot all who are not of their faith. To avoid being infulted by the populace, and accomplish the purport of my voyage, I have affumed the habit and manners of a Turk; my tanned fkin is become Egyptian; a shawl, bound round thy head, conceals my hair, and long whilkers fhade my cheeks. Thanks to this metamorphofis, and the ease with which I fpeak Arabic, I unmolested walk the streets of this city, and its environs; and live familiar with its strange inhabitants. fley often leads me beyond the limits of prudence, but the voice of reason is feeble where an imperious passion rules. To this passion, however, you are indebted for descriptions, which will, at leaft, possels the merit of being exact. Aniestology bos aming

Grand Cairo is a modern built city; this is proved, beyond all doubt, by the writings

1.30 Vof

· idolators.

which is the tword whenty which is the content denomina-

of the Oriental historians. I will cite their own words, for, when we speak of their times, they themselves can certainly afford us the best information.

"In the year 358 of the Hegyra, (o) "Joubar, General of Moas, and descendant of the princes of Kirouan, entered Egypt, at the head of a formidable army, and conquered it from the Abassides, (p) From that time, the prayers were read in the name of the Fatimites, (q) The conqueror, wanting a place in which to establish his soldiers, laid the soundations of Elkahera, (r) built a palace for the

(a) Elmacin, page 222.

(p) The caliphs of Bagdad, slumbering upon the throne, were successively stripped of their vast dominions, by their governors; till, of a power which made the whole world tremble, nothing remained, except the title, and the barren privilege of being named first at prayers, in all the mosques. The conquest of Moaz deprived them of that honour, which was not restored to them till 207 years after, when Salah Eddin, of the family of the Ayoubites, seized on Egypt.

(q) The Fatimite caliphs derive their origin from Ali, who espoused Fatima, the daughter of Mahomet. In the year 296 of the Hegyra, they founded a kingdom, on the coast of Africa; where they reigned till the year 567.

(r) The city the Europeans call Grand Cairo.

Vol. I. G "Emperor,

"Emperor, and commanded the nability and army to inhabit this new city. Four years after this, Moaz forfook his kingdom, in Barbary, and came to enjoy his conquest. This year the building of Grand Cairo was completed, and the dominion of the Fatimites rendered permanent."

Moaz, in a mandate to his fon, has the following words. "At the moment this "city was founded, the planet Mars was in afcention; and it is Mars who conquers the universe; (s) therefore have I given it the name of Elkahera." (t) The foundation of Grand Cairo has been a subject of dispute, and error, among travellers, and learned men; (u) permit me, therefore, Sir, to add, to the testimony of Elmacin, the deficition

- (s) The excavations were dug, which furrounded the city; materials were prepared; the aftronomers, with mathematical inftruments, observed the ascent of Mars; at the proper moment, the signal was given, and the foundation of Elkahera was laid, with shouts of joy.
- Mars; and likewife fignifies victorious.
- (u) Prosper Alpinus says, "Grand Cairo is the city "which the ancients called Memphis." Voyage a Egypte, page 17.

Father Sieard pretends Grand Cairo was built by

feription of Abulfeda. (x) This writer, famous both as a geographer and historian, has bequeathed us many interesting particulars no where else to be found.

Beside Fostat, (y) a little to the north, "stands the city of Elkahera, built by the "Fatimite caliphs. These princes, who had "founded an empire on the coast of Bar-"bary, became masters of Egypt. The "first conqueror who reigned there was

Ebn el Aas, the lieutenant of Omar. Lettres Edifiantes,

The passages I have cited are sufficient to resute these European writers; whose opinion, void of proof, is contradictory to all Oriental history.

"Abulfeda's Description of Egypt."

"Abulfeda's Description of Egypt."

(y) Fostat is the city which we improperly call Old

Ebo

Moaz, the fon of Elmanion.—He laid the condition of Cairo, in the year 359 of the Hegyra.—The ground on which it was built was a garden, belonging to the fon of Toulon, (z) which stood beinde the royal quarter of Catayah, (a) in which he resided. This new city was named Elkahera, as predictive of the concupation over its chemies. It is not, like Fostat, situated beside the river Nile, but a little to the cast; for which reason the latter is best adapted to trade; boats come up to it

(z) Toulon, a famous governor of Egypt, rebelled against Abou Elabbas, the son of Elmetouakkel, the sisteenth caliph of the Abassides, in the year 264 of the Hegyra, and made himself master of the country, over which his descendants reigned till the year 292, when, being vanquished by Mahommed, general of Modest Bellah, the seventeenth caliph of the Abassides, they were brought to Bagdad. Elmacin.

(a) Toulon built a suburb, on the north of Fostat, so large that they called it the royal city of Catayah. This suburb is now included in Grand Cairo, and still contains a magnificent mosque, which this prince caused to be built, as well as the palace he inhabited, which is at present known by the name of Calaa elkabeek. madd as mad and edge there is and a look of the contains at the called the contains a contain and the contains a contain the contains a

mora Mangi melékou belbes, og nahabouha, oua catalou

"ceedingly cheap there."

Abulfeda, and experience, both, tell us the fituation of Grand Cairo is not fo advantageous as that of Fostat; nor is its distance from the Nile the only disadvantage felt there: the steril chain of mountains, called Mokattam, totally void of verdure, prefenting a prospect of arid fand, and stones calcined by the fun, are on its east; and, when the north wind does not blow, reflect a foffocating heat on the city; the inhabitants breathe a burning air, and are obliged to wait till night for refreshing coolness. For this reason, it was long before any thing was to be feen where Cairo now stands but gardens, pleasure houses, and barracks for the troops; it owes its sudden increase to an incident, which I shall relate with pleasure, because it affects our own history. The French, under the command of king Lufignan, extended their conquests over Syria, and carried their victorious arms as far as Egypt. In the year 564 of the Hegyra (b) they

About 22 of the Best of the commission of the shablest with the act of the commission of the commissio

⁽b) "Oua si séné arba oua settin oua khamsé maiat elfrangi melekou belbes, oua nahabouha, oua catalou G 3 "ahelba

"took Belbeis by affault, put a part of the inhabitants to the fword, and led the rest captive. Elated with success, they marched toward, and seized on, Cairo. Shaouar, king of Egypt, set fire to Fostat, searing it would fall into their hands, and the flames spread so rapidly that the city burnt during four and fifty days. Unable to repel, by force, his enterprizing enemies, this seeble prince had recourse to artistice; he gave them a hundred thousand dinars (crowns of gold) and promised them a million, on condition they would retire; they did so, and lost their conquest and the promised sum."

By the disaster of Fostat, Grand Cairo became enriched; the unfortunate inhabitants quitted their ashes, and took refuge in the new city, which assumed the pompous surname of Masr, peculiar to the capital of

SISH WOLL

ahelha, oua efrouhom; tom farou men belbes oua nazelou ala elkahera oua haferouha. Feharac Sha-

[&]quot; ouar medinet mast raufan men en iemlekha elfrangi;

[&]quot; fe baquait elnar tehrokha arbaat oua khamfin journ;
" oua (aneh Shaouar elfrangi, ala elf elf dinar, iehmelha

[&]quot; eleihom, fe hamal eleihom maïat elf dinar, fe falhom

[&]quot; en ierhelou an elkahera leicdar ala gema elmal oua

[&]quot; hasalo, se rahalou." Abulfeda. asit of abidve

Egypt, and Salab Eddin came here, and eftablished the dynasty of the Ayoubites. (c)

off In the year 572 of the Hegyra, he built

- " the walls which furround Grand Cairo, and
- "the castle on mount Mokattam! (d) The
- " circumference of these walls was 20,200
- " cubits, (about three leagues) and he conti-
- " nued this work till his death." (e)

These walls are still almost perfect, though occasionally much concealed by ruins and

- (c) The famous Salah Eddin, or Saladin, who twenty years warred with the Franks, and drove them almost entirely from the East, was appointed governor of Egypt, by Nour Eddin, in the year 564 of the Hegyra, of which he became fovereign three years after, and rapidly extended his conquests in Syria and Mesopotamia. He was born at Tecrit, a ftrong place between Bagdad and Moful, in the year 533 of the Hegyra, and died at Damascus in 58210 Loop bins 2001 a 110
- (d) "Fi hade efféné (etnin oua khamsé maiat) amar " Salah Eddin beinan effour eddiar ala masr elkahera,
- " oua elkalaat ala eggebal elmokattam. Oua dour telk
- " tessaat oua asherin elf draa, oua talat maiat draa, oua " lam izel elaml il a en mat."

seconfictly ala clkab

an wer earlers leicht elfrangi;

Life of Salah Eddin,

(e) This passage absolutely overturns the opinion of Father Sicard, who fays the caftle was built by Queen Semiramis; and also that of Shaw, Niebuhr, and many other writers, who have supposed it the fortress of Babylon, which the Persians built in Egypt. And a located Egypt,

G 4

houses:

houses; they have feveral gates, of mile and majestic architecture which, with some morques, deferve the admiration of travellers Salah Eddin, the protector of letters, built a university in the quarter of Caraffer also the beautiful mosque in which is the tomb of Shafe fer, the founder of one of the four fects of the Sunnites. (f) The mosque still subsists, but the university is in ruins, and the academy Diamab Elashar (the mosque of flowers) has supplied its place. Arts and sciences flourished till the Turks became masters of Egypt, but then decayed. Enemies to human knowledge, they have stifled wisdom and learning throughout their whole empire: their only studies, at present, are theology, while their innumerable commentators have made a chaos of the Koran; grammar, which is necessary to read this book correctly, in which is contained their religion and laws; and aftrology, a study to which ignorant nations always are addicted.

In the fifteenth century, Grand Cairo was one of the richest and most flourishing cities

⁽f) Those sects of the Sunnites, called orthodox by the Mahometans, are Shaffey, Hanefi, Hanbali, and Maleki.

in the woold, the emporium of Europe and Afia, and traded from the Brains of Gibas raker to the farthest limits of thelia and then discovery of the Cape of Good hope, and the? Ottoman compuest, have deprived it of a great part of its opulence and fplendor t yet, hoted withstanding many of its canals, which brought the treasures of the East and West. are become dry, and the city ittelf groans under the yoke of the Pacha and four and twenty Beys, its admirable fituation, and the fertility of Egypt, are advantages to great that, in a space of three leagues, it still contains a multitudinous people, and immense throughout ther with the empire : riches.

I hope, Sir, the authorities above cited will afcertain the origin of Grand Gairo. Before I am more circumstantial concerning this city, it seems necessary to describe Fostat, of which I have spoken so much, and this will be the subject of my next letter.

have the honour to be &c, al

one of the richest and most stouristing cities

(f) There eds of he Sunnites, called orthorios by the Mahometans, are Shaffer, Haneft, Handalis, and

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fearching G can and only support for its

L B T T E R EVIDO

Fostat founded by Amrou Ebn Elaas: the city, its inhabitants and monuments, with the ancient canal that ran to the Red Sea, deficibed. Refutation of those authors who have supposed this city to be the ancient Babylon, founded by Semiramis.

To M. L. M.

THE city of Fostat, commonly called Old Cairo, has been, Sir, the subject of many discussions among the learned who have written on Egypt. (g) Most of them, searching

(g) M. Maillet pretends the governors of Egypt, under the Emperors of Constantinople, made Fostat their place of residence, when Amrou son of El Aas took it, after a long siege. Description de l'Egypte, tome 1. p. 194.

This is an error.

Shaw, speaking after the geographer of Nubia, says, "The city of Fostat is the very same called Mass, a name derived from Missaim, the son of Ham, the son of Noah, to whom be peace, for he was its first sound der." Shaw's Travels, p. 294.—This opinion is far from the truth.

Father Sicard, citing Josephus, says, "Old Cairo"
was the ancient Lété. Cambyses settled the Babylonians

fearching Greek and Latin authors for its origin, have been deceived: had they looked into the annals of the East, they would have found the truth, and avoided a multitude of errors which have glided into their descriptions. I shall follow my usual plan, and, instead of opinion, cite facts.

" In the twentieth year of the Hegyra, " Amrou, son of El Aas, built Masr Fostat, " in the very place where he had encamped " before he went to the fiege of Alexan-" dria. His tent was left standing there, " because he would not destroy a dove's " nest and her young: returning from his " conquest, the general laid the foundation " of the city, to which he gave the name of " Fostat." (b)

This passage precisely marks the foundation of Fostat, where the governors sent by the Caliphs fixed their residence. It took the

there's elected the men twent clanaril to a mane 'r

dening a

[&]quot;nians in this city; who, having conquered Egypt, " remained there." Lettres Edifiantes, p. 473.

Old Cairo was not built in the time of Josephus, as history testifies, but the fortress of Babylon, standing near the place where that city was built, remained.

⁽b) Elmacin. History of the Arabs-Fostat, in Arabic, Farne Steafer, etting Total fine, rays, ...tnep seilingit smannyl no ent Lete Cambytes fertied the Babylo

furname nof Mair; (i) which Memphiso had before bonne, and which the Arabs abways gave to the capital of Egypt; and its figuation. on the banks of the Nile and near a canal communicating with the Red Sea, foon made it flourish. It was about two leagues in circumference, when Shaotar, (k) five hundred years after its foundation, fet it on fire, to preserve it from the French. This was the fatal period of its powers for, with its inhabitants, it loft its trade and riches, b Grand Cairo then became the abode of lords and kings, and received the pompous name of Mafe. Fostat, then, added the epithet Elatik, fignifying the ancient, to that of Mair, which it preserves to this day. (1)

To

Ham, came and fettled in Egypt, which they, therefore, call Mass; and bestow the same epithet on the metropolis of the country.

(1) See the preceding letter. ship of the so two sult

(1) The oriental historians have never called Fostat by the name of Kahera (Cairo); they first named it Fostat, then Fostat Mass; and, since its decline, Mass Elatik. The Venetian merchants first gave it the name of Old Cairo, and travellers have repeated the error.

Oua Fostat madiné mahedta benaha amrou ebn elaas, lamma fatah diar masir si khalaset Omar. Qua can si mauda el Fostat Casr men bena elaouail iecal lo casr elshamah,

he To the above description of Elmacin the learned Abulfeda adds sircumstances which throw great light on history of Amrou, for "of El Aas, having conquered Egypt, laid "the foundation of Fostat, under the Cali-" phet of Omar, de Near the place on which Inhe built it was an antique caftle, called Sthe Caftle of Lights. The morque of Omat, built at a little distance from the ground som which the general had erected his tent; ff flood within the city. Fostat Masr was " the feat of government, in Egypt, till the " time that Ebn Toulon built, north of its walls, the fuburb of Catayah, to which he " retired with his army, and there founded " the celebrated temple which obears his "name." (m)

The outlines of the caftle, mentioned by Abulfeda, still remain. They are thick walls,

elshamah, se can Fostat amrou be janeb el jameh elmarous bejamèh Omar be mass. Oua lam tezel mass, oua hie Fostat courch selmemleke eddiar elmassiat hetta taula ahmed Ebn Toulon. Oua bena lo oua l'asquero elcataïah si shemasi mass. Oua bena and elcataïah djamèh elmarous be djamèh Tailoun. Abulfeda Description of Egypt, p. 33.

it is one of the most beautiful mosques in Grand Cairo.

. Ihamali.

in the form of a parallelogram, the antiquity of which is very firiking. It flands eaft of Fostat, on the fide of mount Mokattam. Christians inhabit these ruins, among which the Greeks and Copts have churches. Several ancient arches are fill standing, between this place and the river; there are others half destroyed, and a hexagonal building, on the banks of the Nile, denotes the remains of the aqueduct which conveyed water to the caftle." Here then, Sir, behold the fortress of Babylon; an object of research and error to so many of the learned : it was built by the Perfians when they ravaged Egypt, under Came byfes; or, as other writers will have it, when Semiramis came there, at the head of a formidable army. We may know it from the description of Strabo. (n) The Persians, who of this profund and the I and or thick were

adored

⁽n) Up the Nile, above Heliopolis, now called Mataree, two leagues from Grand Cairo, is the Castle of Babylon, fortified by nature and art; it was built by some Babylonians, who, with the consent of their sovereign, retired thither. Here, the Romans keep one of the three legions, who guard Egypt, in garrison. The mountain gently descends from that fortress to the banks of the Nile; a hundred and fifty slaves are continually employed in raising water thither, by the means of wheels and screws. Strabo, lib. 17.

which occasioned the Arabs to name it the castle of lights. (0)

Mair Elatik is only half a league in extent, but is still very populous, and tolerably commercial. The boats from Upper Egypt come here, and from hence afcend again up the Said. (p) The Copts are very numerous, and have several churches in this place, the largest of which is that of St. Macan rius, where the patriarch is installed. The church of St. Sergius contains a cavern which the christians hold in great veneral tion, pretending that the holy family five ing from Herod, retired here, to I faw the history of this flight painted on the door of a recess, in which they say mass: the costume of the East is perfectly observed in this picture, and the head of the Virgin tolerable. The neglect of costume, among

⁽a) Niebuhr has given the parallelogram figure of this castle, in his plan of Cairo; but he has taken it for the citadel, the honour of constructing which he has bestowed upon the Arabs.

⁽p) The Arabs call Upper Egypt, Said, beginning above Mair Fostat, and ending at Assouan, formerly Syene.

modern painters, too often destroys the effect

A hexagonal building stands at the entrance of Old Cairo, each fide of which is eighty feet wide, and one hundred high. Oxen mount up a very gentle afcent, and turn a wheel, which raifes water to the fummit of this building: five basons receive and return the water into an aqueduct, fustained by three hundred arches, which conveys it into a refervoir; there other oxen, and a new machine, raise it to the palace of the Pacha. This is a work of the Arabs, which they have constructed according to the plan of that described by Strabo, the remains of which are feen between the citadel of Babylon and the Nile; the only difference is the Mahometans employ oxen inflead of men bead the hos surface aid a

The environs of Mass Elatik are scattered over with ruins, which indicate its ancient extent, and which, were history desective, would sufficiently attest it to be modern. They want that majestic character the Egyptians gave their edifices, and the impression of which time cannot essae. Neither sphinx, column, nor obelisk can be found, among these

these heaps of rubbish. Within the city are thick walls, round a great square, in which they deposit the corn of the Thebais, destined for the provision of the troops. This enclosure they call Joseph's granaries, and the name has imposed upon some travellers, who have taken it, without examination, for the work of the son of Jacob, though there is nothing appertaining to it which bespeaks antiquity, and history has informed us it was built by the Mamluk kings. Memphis, the residence of the Pharaohs, was the place where Joseph, the superintendant of the corn of Egypt, erected his magazines.

Just without Mass Elatik, near the water works, the khalig, (q) which runs through Grand Cairo, and which is annually opened with so much ceremony, begins. Most modern writers have attributed this canal to the Emperor Trajan, (r) on the authority

(9) The Arabs call all canals, khalig.

⁽r) Shaw calls it, amnis Trajanus. Shaw's Travels,

Pococke fays—" Opposite to this reservoir of water, "at the Nile, is the canal that conveys the water to "Cairo, and seems to be that which was made by Tra-

[&]quot;jan." Poc. Trav. vol. I. p. 27.

authority of that passage in Ptolemy, which says, the river of Trajan runs between Heliopolis and Babylon; but this Emperor cut no canal in Egypt; a work of this kind must be attributed to his successor, who built the city of Antinoe. The canal Ptolemy means begins a league and a half below Old Cairo, and passes near Heliopolis; and this is what Macrizi, (s) with reason, calls the khalig of Adrian.

The origin of the canal, the mouth of which is at Masr Elatik is too well described by Elmacin, for any one, who consults oriental history, to confound it with that of Adrian. Amrou having sent intelligence to Omar of the taking of Alexandria, and camels loaded with wheat to Medina, then ravaged by samine, the Caliph congratulated him on his success, and thus added. "Dig a khalig, (t) by which the productions of Egypt may be taken into the

Father Sicard goes farther, and fays—" This is the canal which Ptolemy calls, amnis Trajanus; Quin"tus Curtius, Oxius; and the Arabs, Merakemi."
Lettres Edifiantes, p. 470.

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⁽s) Macrizi, history of Egypt.

^{- (}t) Elmacin, history of the Arabs.

" fea of Colzoum, (u) and from thence to

" the port of Medina. Amrou executed

" this great work, and dug the khalig to

" which the name of the river of the princes

" of the faithful was given; (x) and the

" vessels which go from Fostat carry the

" productions of Egypt into the sea of Col
" zoum."

This, Sir, was the origin of the famous canal which travellers, repeating each others words, have called amnis Trajanus. It begins near Fostat, runs, lengthways, through Grand Cairo, fills the ponds of that city, and empties itself, some leagues beyond, in the Birque (y) of the pilgrims of Mecca. The various princes who have successively reigned over Egypt, several of whom were enemies to the Caliphs, have suffered it to become dammed up, and it no longer empties its waters into the Red Sea; but, as it was cut through rocks for the space of twenty-four leagues, the mud and sand with

⁽u) Colzoum, is the name the Arabs give to the Red Sea; it was derived from the small town of Colzoum, the ruins of which are some distance from Suez.

⁽x) Khalig el emir el moumenin.

⁽y) Birque is an Arabic word, fignifying an extensive piece of water.

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which it is filled might eafily be removed. By this important communication with the Red Sea, Grand Cairo would once more become the most wealthy and commercial city. in the world.

Let me hope, Sir, your love for truth will indulge me in these discussions, since they serve to throw light on certain parts of history which have been in the utmost obscurity. I shall soon have occasion to enliven and make my narrative more agreeable; the country where I am at present is another world, presenting scenes continually new; I will endeavour to trace them such as they are. You shall hear the Turks speak for themselves, shall see them act, and I will leave to you the satisfaction which the enlightened mind always takes in judging for itself.

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LETTER VIII.

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The extent of Grand Cairo; its streets, fquares, and mosques. The palace of Salah Eddin, built on a beight which overlooks the city, where are found stately columns of granite, and the famous well of Joseph, described.

To M. L. M.

Grand Cairo.

THE length of Grand Cairo, Sir, built on each fide of the canal of the prince of the faithful, is one league and a half, from north to fouth; and three quarters of a league, in width, from east to west. Its whole extent is best seen from the castle, built by Salah Eddin, on Mount Mokattam, (2) which overlooks the city, by which it is half encircled, like an immense crescent. The streets are so narrow and winding that it is impossible to sollow their direction, amidst the

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multitude

⁽²⁾ Mokattam fignifies cut, and this rock is so called because it has been separated by art from the mountain which, beginning at the cataracts, ends here: and from which it is only about a hundred paces distant.

multitude of houses which stand crowding on each other; vast vacancies only can be distinguished, and these are squares which become ponds in the time of inundation, and gardens the rest of the year. They are rowed over in September, and covered with flowers and verdure in April. Some of the many temples with which this city abounds tower like citadels: and once, during the time of fedition, the rebels retired to the mosque of Sultan Hassan, from the top of which they battered the castle with cannon. There is a vast dome over this grand edifice; its cornice, grotefquely sculptured, projects considerably, and its front is faced with the finest marble: the gates are now walled up, and are guarded by Janissaries.

Grand Cairo contains near three hundred mosques, most of them with minarets, which are high steeples of light architecture, and surrounded by galleries. These give an agreeable variety to a city which, from the statues of its roofs, appears uniform. Public criers, at appointed hours, (a) call the people to

⁽a) That is to fay, at fun rifing, noon, three o'clock, fun fetting, and about two hours after. These different fervices

prayers from these minarets: about eight hundred voices are heard at the same moment. from all quarters of the city, calling man to the performance of his duty to God. The Turks abhor the noise of bells, and fay it offends the ears, is unmeaning, and proper only for beafts of burthen. They derive this opinion from Mahomet, who; like a great politician, desirous that all his inftitutions should have one tendency, and willing to captivate both the fenses and understanding, rejected the trumpet of the Jews. and the rattle of the Oriental Christians. He knew the human voice would make a greater impression on the mind of man, than the grating found of infenfible brafs, and produced a holy summons, sent by heaven, conformable to his views. (b)

fervices are called Salaat el Fegr, el dobr, el afr, el magreb, el afba.

(b) The following is the form of this summons: God is great. I bear witness there is but one God; I bear witness that Mahomet is his prophet. Come to prayer; come to worship. God is great; he is only one God.

Allah Acbar. Eshhed en la ila ella allah; eshhed en Mahammed rasoul allah. Haï ala es salat; haï ala el falah. Allah Acbar. La illa ella allah.

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The castle of Cairo stands on a steep rock, and is furrounded by thick walls, on which are strong towers. It was a place of great force before the invention of gunpowder, but, being commanded by the neighbouring mountains, it would not, now, stand the fire of a battery erected there two hours. It is more than the fourth of a league in circumference; the rock being steep, there are two roads cut to it, which lead to doors guarded by Affabs and Janissaries. (c) The first watch the lower part of the fortress, and the others what is properly called the citadel, whence, with fix wretched pieces of artillery, turned on the Pacha's apartment, they oblige him to retire, as foon as the Beys have given the command. or an account glock of bourface; book

This castle includes the palaces of the Sultans of Egypt, now almost buried under their own ruins; domes overthrown, heaps of rubbish, gilding, and pictures, the colours of which have defied corroding time, stately marble columns still standing, but in general without capitals; such are the

⁽c) The Affabs and Janissaries are troops belonging to the Grand Seignor; but always bought from their duty by the Beys.

tokens of its former magnificence. In one of the halls of these ruinous buildings the rich carpet is fabricated which the Emir Hadgi, (d) bears every year to Mecca; the old carpet is obtained in bits, by the pilgrims, as holy relics, and the new covers the Caaba, or temple of Abraham. (e)

The Pachas inhabit a large building, containing nothing remarkable, the windows of which look towards the fquare Caramaydan. The hall of audience, where the Divan afsembles three times a week, is as long, but not so wide, as that of the Palais (the justice chamber) at Paris, and is stained by the blood of the Beys, maffacred some years ago by order of the Porte. These are, however, at present, the fovereigns of Egypt; for the Grand Seignor's representative is a phantom with which they fport: they keep him to ferve their own purposes, then dismis him with shame. He cannot leave his palace, in which he is a prisoner, without their permission. Thus humbled is the Ottoman pride, thus feeble,

⁽d) Emir Hadgi, or prince of the caravan, is the title of the Bey who undertakes to efcort the caravan which departs every year from Cairo to Mecca.

⁽e) See abrégé de la vie de Mahomet by Savary, p. 4.

thus reduced is the empire which threaten-

The mint is beside Caramaydan, where they coin a prodigious quantity of medins, and sequins, (f) struck with the die of the Sheik Elbalad, (g) which I have several times visited. The sequins are made of the gold-dust supplied by the caravan of Abyssinia, which the master of the mint assured me annually brought more than 166,666l. sterling.

Joseph's well is among the things the most curious the castle contains. (b) It is sunk in the rock, two hundred and eighty seet deep, and forty-two in circumference. It includes two excavations, not perpendicular to each other. A stair-case, the descent of which is exceedingly gentle, is carried round; the par-

(f) A fequin is a gold coin, worth about fix and threepence.

(g) The Bey most powerful, in Grand Cairo, assumes the title Sheik Elbalad, governor of the country, and the

right of coining.

⁽h) Pococke fays a Visir named Joseph sunk this well, about seven hundred years ago, by order of Sultan Mahammed, the son of Calaoun: the Egyptians affirm it was Salah Eddin. It certainly, however, is the work of the Arabs, and not the Babylonians, as Father Sicard pretends.

tition which separates this stair-case from the well is part of the rock, left only six inches thick, with windows cut, at intervals, to give light; but as they are small, and some of them low, it is necessary to descend by the light of candles. There is a reservoir, and a level space, at that part of the well where it takes a new direction; and oxen which turn a machine that draws water from the bottom of the well. Other oxen, above, raise it from this reservoir by a similar machine. This water comes from the Nile; and, as it has been siltered through sand impregnated with salt and nitre, is brackish.

The ruins of the palace of Salah Eddin are in the Janissary's quarter, and include the divan of Joseph, (i) the dome of which, and a part of the walls have fallen. There are thirty columns of red granite still standing: the shaft of each, forty-five feet high, is a single stone. The variations in their size, and the ornaments sculptured round the capitals, bespeak their having been taken from

⁽i) Salah Eddin was called Joseph, the son of Ayoub; his other names are pompous titles, given him by the Mahometans, on account of his victories over the Christian princes, whom he drove out of Syria.

more ancient monuments. Some distance from these beautiful columns is a delightful balcony. or pavilion, standing in the highest part of the citadel, the prospect from which is most extensive. The whole of Grand Cairo, with its multitudinous mosques and minarets, is feen at a view. Towards Boulac, fruitful fields, and rich harvests, interspersed with groves of date-trees; Mair Fostat, on the South-west, and the plains of Said beyond, which, when inundated by the Nile, contain hamlets scattered up and down like islands. The landscape is terminated by the pyramids, which, like pointed mountains, appear loft in the clouds. The eye is never weary of objects so various and so grand, and I have more than once enjoyed this view. The fresh air breathed in this elevated fituation, and the coolness it imparts is an additional pleasure. Seated in this delightful pavilion, how many agreeable thoughts arise in the mind; yet how suddenly are these fweet meditations disturbed by gloomy melancholy! Here, in these rich fields, arts and sciences once flourished, where now an ignorant and barbarous people trample them under foot. Tyranny, with its iron sceptre is 310 m become

become the scourge of this first of countries, in which the miseries of men seem to increase in proportion to the efforts of nature to render them happy! It was but yesterday, Sir, I was deeply affected by these resections, when, walking before the castle, I beheld the magnificent prospect I have described.

I have the honour to be, &c.

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Boulac, the port of Grand Cairo, its magazines, environs, and the gardens of Hellai described; with curious details concerning the Mekias, or Nilometer, on the beautiful island Raouda, which abounds in delightful groves.

To M. L. M.

Grand Cairo.

You have more than once, Sir, seen Boulace mentioned in my letters. This is the place where all the merchandize, coming from Damietta and Alexandria, is landed. This modern town, only half a league from Grand Cairo, on the eastern bank of the Nile, is two miles long, but narrow. It contains superb public baths, and vast okals. These are square buildings, including a large court with a portico, over which is a winding gallery: the ground sloor is divided into spacious magazines, and the rooms above have neither furniture nor ornaments. Here strangers

live,

live, and deposit their wares; and, these okals, having only one gate, like that of a citadel, are secure, in time of revolt, from all insult. These are the only inns in Egypt; and strangers are obliged to find their own furniture and food; for, in this country, money cannot procure dinners ready dressed.

In front of the houses of Boulac are seen thousands of vessels, of various forms and fizes, at anchor. Some, large and strong, carrying two masts, are trading barks; these usually have a large cabin for passengers: others, light, and without decks, are only to ferry the people from one fide of the river to the other. A third fort are pleasure boats, artfully carved and painted, containing charming cabins, carpeted over, and affording shelter from the sun's heat. Here, reclined at ease on cushions, the wealthy go to breathe that fresh and cooling air which is continually active upon the Nile, and here admire the variegated landscapes which its ever verdant banks present. When the wind is favourable the sail is hoisted, and these light boats feem to fly over the furface of the water; when

when contrary, robust watermen give them almost equal speed.

Opposite Boulac is the small village of Enbaba, consisting of miserable mud huts, built of a round form, under the shade of sycamores, against which they rest, some houses of sun-dried bricks, and a small mosque, which is seen at a distance among the soliage of dates and tamarinds. The inhabitants of Cairo go there to buy excellent butter, during winter; and, in summer, delicious melons.

Half a league North-east of Boulac is the old castle of Hellai, (k) which is falling in ruins. Here the Beys, accompanied by their stately train, go to receive the new Pacha, and conduct him in pomp to the prison from which they have just expelled his predecessor. Round this castle are spacious enclosures, where the orange, citron and pomegranate, planted without order, grow exceedingly high and tusted: their twining branches form charming arbours, over which the sycamore and palm extend their dark green soliage,

⁽A) It seems probable this castle derived its name from Heliopolis, from which it is not far distant.

and among them rivulets meander, and the clustering rose and bazil bloom. (1) It is impossible to describe the delight of breathing the fresh air beneath these enchanting shades, under a climate so continually possessing the burning heat of the dog-days; this pleasure only can be felt. The odour of the orange slower, and the aromatic emanations of balsamick plants gently renovate the senses, benumbed by heat, and insuse the most agreeable sensations. It is dangerous for a European to frequent these groves too much, being peopled by concubines, whom the jealous Turks, if they slip, never pardon.

Ignoscenda quidem, scirent si ignoscere manes.

Beyond these gardens is the canal the construction of which Macrizi attributes to the emperor Adrian. Ptolemy calls it the Trajan river: it is almost dammed up.

Having hastily viewed these charming places, I returned, embarked at Boulac, and proceeded along the Nile as far as the island

⁽¹⁾ The bazil, in Egypt, grows thrice as high as in France, and exceedingly tufted and oderiferous.

Vol. I. Raouda.

Raouda, (m) which lies between Old Cairo and Giza. For the space of a league the eye is delighted with immense fields, of wheat, flax, and beans, intermingled with groves of dates, and stamlets. I also saw the mouth of a large canal, on the lest bank of the river, before I came to Giza. (n)

Being come to the projecting part of the island of Raouda, I went to see the Nilometer which the Arabs call Mekias. (o) This is a high marble column in the middle of a bason, the bottom of which is on a level with the bed of the Nile. It is divided, to the very top, into cubits and inches, and has a Corinthian capital on which a beam rests that supports a gallery. The waters enter the bason through a conduit, when the inundation begins, and the criers examine the column every morning, and publish the daily increase

⁽m) Raouda fignifies gardens, and the island has obtained this name because it possesses some charming ones.

⁽n) I several times walked along the banks, and have followed its course for the space of a league; it has various windings, and runs toward Libya. This was probably one of the canals which formerly ran to the lake Marcotis.

⁽⁰⁾ Mekias fignifies measure,

through the streets of Grand Cairo. When it is sixteen cubits high, they open, with great ceremony, the mound which dams up the canal of the prince of the faithful, and the Nile streams through the city amidst the acclamations of the whole people assembled; but I will describe this festival to you in a letter on that particular subject.

Before the Arabs had conquered Egypt, the nilometer stood in the little town of Halouan, sive leagues south of Fostat, and opposite the ancient Memphis. "In the year "ninety-six of the Hegira, (p) Ozama, go-"vernor of that rich country, wrote to the "emperor, Soliman Abd Elmelek, that the "Mekias of Halouan had been thrown "down. (q) The Caliph commanded ano-"ther to be built in the island that lies be-"tween Fostat and Giza. A hundred and forty eight years after, this nilometer fell, "and the Emperor Elmetouakkel had ano-"ther erected in the same place, which was

⁽p) Elmacin history of the Arabs.

⁽q) It was natural to place the nilometer near Memphis, which, when the Arabs conquered Egypt, was the residence of its governors; perhaps there were two, one on each side of the river.

" called the new Mekias." This nilometer still remains. Nejem Eddin, son of Melek el Adel, who died at Mansoura, during the expedition of Lewis the ninth into Egypt, charmed with the fituation, built a vast palace near the Mekias, and leaving that built by Salah Eddin went and inhabited it. The flaves whom he entrusted to guard it were named Baharites, or Maritime, and diffinguished themselves at the battle of Mansou-The apartments and walls of this palace are now ruinous, but the bason, owing to its folid construction, and the column, which is well supported, though they have stood nine hundred years, appear to have received no damage from time.

If Murtadi may be credited, in his description of the miracles of Egypt, the year that Amrou conquered this country the Nile failed in its annual increase, and the chief men came to supplicate the conqueror's permission to follow the ancient custom of dressing a young virgin in rich robes, and casting her into the river. The Mahometan general firmly opposed the requisition, and the Nile did not increase during the three months after the summer solstice. But the alarmed Egyptians coming

coming to solicit him again, he wrote to Omar, giving an account of what had passed. The Caliph answered—"O Amrou, I "approve thy conduct, and the fortitude "thou hast shewn. The law of Mahomet "ought to abolish such barbarous customs. "When thou hast read this letter, cast the "enclosed into the river."

The enclosed letter contained the following words.

" In the name of God, benevolent and merciful.

"The Lord shower down his benedictions on Mahomet and his family! Abd Allah "Omar, son of Khetteb, prince of the faithful, to the Nile.

"If of thy own inherent virtue thou hast hitherto slowed in Egypt, suspend thy course; but if it be by the will of Almighty God that thou waterest this land, we supplicate him to command thee to do now as heretofore.

"Peace be with the Prophet, and health and bleffing upon his family."

The historian adds that no sooner had this letter been thrown into the Nile than the

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waters rose several cubits. Though Omar, who could burn four hundred thousand volumes without remorfe, might have been very capable of writing this, and though it may appear to be his stile and manner, I will by no means, Sir, warrant its authenticity, on the faith of Murtadi; much less the miracle which followed: the custom, however, which still subsists, seems to prove the Egyptians formerly facrificed a youthful virgin to the God of the Nile; for at present they make a clay statue, in the form of a woman, which they call The betrothed, and place it on the mound of the khalig of the prince of the faithful, and throw it into the river previous to the opening of the dam. Is not this the remains of a barbarous worship, which the Ottomans, notwithstanding the horror they hold all kind of idolatry in, could not wholly abolish, being the ancient error of a superstitious people?

Having visited the Mekias, and the remains of the palace of Nejem Eddin, I walked through the island, which is one vast garden, surrounded by the waters of the Nile. Walls, breast high, protect its banks from the impetuous current. On one side, Old Cairo.

Cairo, the water-works, and pleasure houses of the Beys, are seen; on the other, the pleasant town of Giza, where there is a manufactory of fal-ammoniac. The governor who refides here exacts a tax from those who visit the pyramids out of curiosity.

Lost in agreeable meditation, I entered a grove of tamarind, orange, and sycamore trees, and enjoyed the fresh air beneath their thick foliage. A luminous ray here and there penetrated the deep shades, gilding a small part of the scene. Plants and flowers scented the air, multitudes of doves flew from tree to tree, undisturbed at my approach. Thus abandoned to the delights of contemplation, and indulging those delicious fensations the time and place inspired, I uncautiously proceeded towards the thickest part of the wood; when a terrifying voice suddenly exclaimed—Where are you going? Stand, or you are dead .- It was a flave who guarded the entrance of the grove, that no rash curiofity might disturb the females who reposed upon the verdant banks. I instantly turned back, happy in not having been known to be a European. I afterwards under-I 4 flood

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stood the Beys go there sometimes with their Harem, (r) and that any over inquisitive stranger, who should wander there at such a time, would risk the immediate loss of his head. You perceive, Sir, how necessary circumspection is in a country where the least indiscretion may lead to death.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(r) This name is given to the apartment of the women, but it is also used to signify the women themselves,

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LETTER X.

Of Heliopolis, the ancient city of the Sun: the state in which it was when Strabo wrote. Of the obelish of granite still standing: the balsam-shrub of Mecca, which was transplanted by a Pacha; and the fountain named Matar Ain, fresh water, which the Copts hold in great veneration, believing that the Holy Virgin came thither with her son.

To M. L. M.

Grand Cairo.

W HILE describing the environs of the city, I ought not, Sir, to forget the ancient Heliopolis, (s) formerly famous, for cultivating the higher branches of science, and the grandeur of its buildings. Geographers place it at some distance from the eastern angle of the Delta. Strabo (t) tells us it was built on a long slip of earth, raised by men, to secure it from inundation, and the

⁽s) i. e. The city of the fun.

⁽t) Lib. 17.

place he describes I found covered with ruins, two leagues north east of Grand Cairo, and three from the separation of the Nile.

Heliopolis possessed a temple of the Sun, where, in a particular enclosure the sacred ox was sed. This ox was adored here by the name of Mnevis, as he was at Memphis by that of Apis. The credulous people supposed it a god; the priests an animal most useful to agriculture, in a country where he assists in tillage, and afterwards in watering the earth, during six months of the year: (u) but as superstition was their gain, by procuring them offerings and rendering them the guardians of the oracles, they supported it with all their art.

The temple of the Sun was not the only one at Heliopolis; there was another, built in the old Egyptian stile (x) with sphinx avenues and stately obelisks before the principal entrance. Nothing could have a finer effect than the colossal figures of marble, and

⁽u) When the waters of the Nile are low, oxen are employed to turn machines, with chain-buckets, which raise the water into reservoirs, whence it is dispersed over the grounds; for which reason this animal is preserved at its birth, and it is forbidden to kill a calf in Egypt.

⁽x) Strabo, lib. 17.

high pillars of a fingle stone, which were in front of the vestibule of Egyptian temples. While the aftonished eye contemplated these marvellous works, the imagination read the history of the god adored there, and the prince who had raised such edifices, in the hieroglyphics with which they were overfpread. The temples of Heliopolis were ruins in the time of Augustus. Strabo relates that the marks of the rage of Cambyses, who had attacked them with fire and fword, were every where seen. Two of the four obelisks which Sochis had erected in that city were carried to Rome, (y) a third was destroyed by the Arabs, and the fourth remains on its pedestal. It is a single stone, brought from the Thebais, perfectly polished, fixty eight feet high above the base, and about six feet and a half square. The obelisk is in good preservation, except toward the south west, where the granite is chipped to a certain height, and its fides covered with hieroglyphics. This and one sphinx of yellowish marble, thrown in the dust, are the only remains of Heliopolis.

⁽y) Strabo, lib. 17.

There was formerly a college of priests here, which obtained no more mercy from the barbarous Cambyses than did the asylum of Mnevis, where for more than a thousand years they had made astronomical observations, and by their labours had calculated the solar year of three hundred and sixty five days and some minutes, which alone will prove the extent of their knowledge in this science. It was many years afterwards before the people of Europe could exactly determine the solar year; and Julius Cæsar, wishing to reform the Roman kalender, was obliged to employ an astronomer of Alexandria.

At Heliopolis Herodotus was chiefly inftructed in the sciences, and Egyptian mysteries; which were no other than those profound branches of knowledge they thought
prudent to conceal from the people under the
veil of religion, and preserved to themselves
by writing them in hieroglyphics, which themselves only understood. Enlightened by what
he learnt from them, and endued with an
observing mind, this father of history was
crowned at the Olympic games, and the
nine books he composed were worthy the

name of the nine muses which they bore. And yet how many people, who have either not read him enough, or not at all, have dared to criticife and call him fabulous. For my own part, suspending my judgment on the remainder of his history, I only can estimate the worth of what he fays concerning Egypt, and with the utmost satisfaction I have found the manners and customs he appropriates to this country; except with fuch flight modifications as changes of government and religion must necessarily have introduced. As to the monuments he has described, what remains proves he has not exaggerated, and demonstrates the possibility of what is no more. Justice extorts this homage to a historian who, like Homer, was the painter of nations.

Heliopolis has not only the glory of having instructed Herodotus, but also of having taught philosophy a plato, (2) who, from the sublimity of his doctrine, has obtained the name of Divine. In this city, Eudoxus too past thirteen years, in the priests school, and became the most famous astronomer of his time. What now remains of all her

⁽²⁾ Strabo, lib. 17.

monuments and all her sciences? A barbarous Persian has overthrown her temples, a
fanatic Arab burnt her books, and one solitary
obelisk, overlooking her ruins, says to passengers, This once was Heliopolis!

At a little distance is the small village of Mataree, (a) so called because it has a fresh water spring, and the only one in Egypt. Probably the stratum through which the waters of the Nile are filtered, in coming to this spring, does not posses the nitrous quality, so common to this country. Tradition has rendered it samous, which says that the holy samily, slying from Herod, came here; and that the virgin bathed the child Jesus in this sountain. The Christians relate many miracles performed here, and come with great devotion to drink its waters, for the cure of their diseases; the very Mahometans partake of their veneration.

In this village was an inclosure where slips of the balsam shrub, brought from Mecca by a Pacha, were cultivated. When cut like the vine, precious drops were caught, well

known

⁽a) Named Mataree by the Arabs, otherwise Ain Shams, fountain of the sun, because it is near the scite of Heliopolis.

known in pharmacy, and which the eastern women used to give freshness to the complexion, and fortify the stomach. These shrubs, a foot and a half high, have slight shoots, and leaves like those of rue. Belon, who faw them when he was at Grand Cairo. enumerated nine; he dried one of the flips, and proved it to be the plant known by the name of xyllo balfamum, or balm of Gilead, which the caravans bring from Mecca. Its colour he fays is reddish, with an inner bark of beautiful green; it has an odour which partakes of frankincense, the leaf of the terebinthus, or turpentine tree, and wild favory; and, when rubbed between the fingers, is aromatic. like the fcent of the cardamomum. This precious plant is loft to Egypt, where the Pachas do not flay long enough to think of any thing but the interest of the moment. It was not to be found when M. Maillet was conful at Grand Cairo, and at prefent is fearcely remembered.

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LETTER XI.

The bot baths used over all Egypt, and the manner of bathing, described; with observations on the benefits arising from them; on the practice of the women who bathe once or twice a week, and comparisons between these baths and those of the ancient Greeks.

To M. L. M.

Grand Cairo.

THE hot baths, Sir, known in the remotest ages, and celebrated by Homer, who paints the manners of his times, have here preserved all their allurements and salubrity; necessity has rendered them common in a country where perspiration is abundant; and pleasure has preserved the practice. Mahomet, who knew their utility, has made the use of them a religious precept. They have been superficially described by most travellers; but as the habit I am in of frequenting them has given me leisure to examine them attentively, I shall endeavour

endeavour to be more particular and fatiffactory. (b)

The first apartment, at entering the bath, is a great chamber, in the form of a rotunda, with an open roof, to let the pure air circulate freely. A spacious alcove, carpeted, is carried round, and divided into compartments, in which the bathers leave their clothes. In the centre is a fountain, which plays into a reservoir, and has a pleasing effect.

When undressed, a napkin is tied round the middle; sandals are put on, and a narrow passage is entered, where the heat first begins to be felt; the door shuts, and, twenty paces further, a second opens, which is the entrance to a passage at right angles with the first. Here the heat augments, and those who fear to expose themselves too suddenly to its effects stop some time, in a marble hall, before they enter. The bath itself is a spacious vaulted chamber, paved and lined with marble; beside it are sour small rooms: a vapour continually rises from a sountain and eistern of hot

⁽b) I have seen the baths of the principal cities of Egypt; they are all made on the same plan, seldom differing, except in size; thus an exact description of one will include the others.

water, with which the burnt perfumes mingle. (c)

The bathers are not, as in France, imprifoned in a kind of tub, where the body cannot rest at its ease; but, reclining on a spread sheet, and the head supported on a small pillow, they freely take what posture they please, while clouds of odoriferous vapours envelop and penetrate every pore.

Having reposed thus some time, a gentle moisture diffuses itself over the body; a servant comes, gently presses and turns the bather, and, when the limbs are slexible, makes the joints crack without trouble; then masses, (d) and seems to knead the body without giving the slightest sensation of pain.

This done he puts on a stuff glove and continues rubbing long, and freeing the skin of the patient, which is quite wet, from every kind of scaly obstruction, and all imperceptible particles that clog the pores, till it becomes as smooth as satin; he then conducts the bather into a cabinet, pours a lather of perfumed soap on the head, and retires.

(d) Masser comes from the Arabic verb masses, which signifies to touch lightly.

⁽c) Perfumes are only burnt when it is the defire of the persons bathing. By mingling with the vapour they produce a most agreeable effect.

The ancients honoured their guests still more, and treated them after a more volup-While Telemachus was at tuous manner. the court of Nestor, (e) " The beauteous " Polycaste, youngest of the daughters of " the king of Pylos, led the fon of Ulysses to " the bath, washed him with her own hands, " and, having rubbed his body with precious " ointments, clothed him in rich garments " and a shining mantle." Nor were Pisistratus and Telemachus worse treated in the palace of Menelaus, (f) the beauties of which having admired, " they were conducted to " marble basons, in which the bath was pre-" pared, where beauteous flaves washed " them, rubbed them with odorous oils, and " clothed them in fine garments, and magni-" ficent furred robes." (g)

⁽e) Odyffey, Book III.

⁽f) Odyssey, Book IV.

⁽g) I translate the words xxxivas (shaggy mantles) furred robes, though I am sensible no translator has so rendered them, because it seems to me the poet intended to describe a custom which still remains, in the East, of covering the bather with surred garments, when he leaves the hot bath, to prevent a stoppage of perspiration, at a time when the pores are exceedingly open.

The room into which the bather retires has two water cocks, one for cold, the other for hot water; and he washes himself. The attendant presently returns with a depilatory pomatum, (b) which instantly eradicates hair wherever applied. It is in general use both

with men and women in Egypt.

Being well washed and purified, the bather is wrapped up in hot linen, and follows his guide through various windings which lead to the outward apartment, while this insensible transition from heat to cold prevents all inconvenience. (i) Being come to the alcove, a bed is ready prepared, on which the perfon no sooner lies down than a boy comes, and begins to press with his delicate hands all parts of the body, in order to dry them perfectly: the linen is once more changed,

- (b) Made from a mineral called rusma, of a dark brown colour. The Egyptians give it a slight burning, then add an equal quantity of slack lime, and knead them up with water. This grey paste will make the hair fall off in three minutes, without giving the slightest pain.
- (i) Delicate people stop some time in the chamber next the bath, that they may feel no inconvenience by going too studdenly into the air. The pores being exceedingly open, they keep themselves warm all day, and, in winter, stay within doors.

and the boy gently rubs the callous skin of the feet with pumice stone, then brings a pipe and Moka coffee. (k)

Coming from a bath filled with hot vapour, in which excessive perspiration bedewed every limb, into a spacious apartment, and the open air, the lungs expand, and respire pleasure: well kneaded, and, as it were, regenerated, the blood circulates freely, the body feels a voluptuous ease, a flexibility till then unknown, a lightness as if relieved from fome enormous weight, and the man almost fancies himself newly born, and beginning first to live. A glowing consciousness of existence diffuses itself to the very extremities; and, while thus yielding to the most delightful fensations, ideas of the most pleasing kind prevade and fill the foul; the imagination wanders through worlds which itself embellishes, every where drawing pictures of happiness and delight. If life be only a fuccession of ideas, the vigour, the rapidity, with which the memory then retraces all the knowledge

Office

⁽¹⁾ The whole expence of bathing thus to me was half a crown; but the common people go simply to perspire in the bath, wash themselves, and give three halfpence or two-pence at departing.

of the man, would lead us to believe that the two hours of delicious calm, which succeed bathing, are an age.

Such, Sir, are these baths, the use of which was so strongly recommended by the ancients, and the pleasures of which the Egyptians still enjoy. Here they prevent or exterminate rheumatisms, catarrhs, and those diseases of the skin which the want of perspiration occasions. Here they find a radical cure for that satal disease which attacks the powers of generation, and the remedies for which are so dangerous in Europe. (1) Here they rid themselves of those uncomfortable sensations so common among other nations, who have not the same regard to cleanliness.

The women are passionately fond of these baths, whither they go at least once a week, taking with them slaves accustomed to the

office.

⁽¹⁾ Tournefort, who had taken the vapour bath at Constantinople, where they are much less careful than at Grand Cairo, thinks they injure the lungs; but longer experience would have convinced him of his error. There are no people who practise this bathing more than the Egyptians, nor any to whom such diseases are less known. They are almost wholly unacquainted with pulmonic complaints.

office. More fenfual than men, after the usual process they wash the body, and particularly the head, with rose-water. There their attendants braid their long black hair. with which, instead of powder and pomatum, they mingle precious effences. There they blacken the rim of the eye-lid, arch the brows with cobel, (m) and stain the nails of their hands and feet of a golden yellow with benna. (n) Their linen and their robes have been past through the sweet vapour of aloes wood, and, their dreffing ended, they remain in the outward apartment, and pass the day in feating, while finging girls come and dance, and fing foothing airs, or recount amorous adventures.

The days of bathing are festive days among the Egyptian women; they deck themselves magnificently, and, under the long veil and mantle which hide them from the public eye, wear the richest stuffs. They undress themselves in presence of each other, and

dance.

⁽m) Tin, burnt with gall-nuts, which the Turkish women use to blacken, and arch, the eye-brows.

⁽n) A shrub, common in Egypt, which bears some resemblance to the privet. The leaves, chopped and applied to the skin, give it a bright yellow colour.

their vanity extends to their very drawers, which in winter are made of stuffs inwove with filk and gold, and in fummer of worked muslin. Ruffles and lace are unknown to them, but their shifts are made of cotton and filk, as light and transparent as gauze. Rich sashes of Cassimire (0) bind up their floating robes, and two crescents of fine pearls sparkle amidst the black hair that shades their temples; while diamonds enrich the Indian handkerchief with which they bind their brows. Such are the Georgians and Circassians, whom the Turks purchase for their wives. They are neat to excess, and walk in an atmosphere of perfumes; and, though their luxury is hidden from the public, it surpasses that of the European women, in their own houses.

The excessive jealousy of the Turks makes them pretend that, in this warm climate, where nature is so powerful, and women are irresistibly prone to pleasure, an inter-

course

⁽o) The wool of Cassimire is the finest in the world, surpassing silk itself. The sashes made from it cost about five-and-twenty pounds each; they are usually embroidered at both ends, and, though three French ells long, and one wide, may be drawn through a ring.

course between the sexes would be dangerous; they therefore abuse the right of strength, and hold them in slavery, though they thereby increase the violence of their passions, and make them ready to seize the first opportunity of retaliation: ignorant, no doubt, that, though free women may be won, slaves need no winning.

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LETTER XII.

Farther accounts of the Egyptians, their private lives, food, occupations, amusements, inclinations, morals, and the manner in which they receive vifitors.

To M. L. M.

Grand Cairo. LIFE, Sir, at Grand Cairo is rather passive than active. (p) Nine months in the year the body is oppressed by heat; the soul, in a state of apathy, far from being continually tormented by a wish to know and act, sighs after calm tranquillity. Inaction, under a temperate climate, is painful; here, repose is enjoyment. The most frequent salutation, at meeting or parting, is, Peace be with you. (q) Effeminate indolence is born with the Egyptian,

(b) From March to November the thermometer constantly rises from 23 to 36 degrees; in the other months it feldom descends lower than the ninth degree above the freezing point.

(9) Thus the Orientals falute each other. The Chriftian religion, which owes its origin to Asia, has borrowed

Egyptian, grows as he grows, and descends with him to the grave: it is the vice of the climate; it influences his inclinations, and governs his actions. The sofa, therefore, is the most luxurious piece of surniture of an apartment. Their gardens have charming arbours, and convenient seats, but not a single walk. The Frenchman, born under an ever varying sky, is continually receiving new impressions, which keep his mind as continually awake; he is active, impatient, and agitated like the atmosphere in which he exists; while the Egyptian, seeling the same heat, the same sensation, two thirds of the year, is idle, solemn, and patient.

He rises with the sun to enjoy the morning air, purifies himself, and repeats the appointed prayer. (r) His pipe and coffee are brought him, and he reclines at ease on his sofa. Slaves, with their arms crossed, remain silent at the far end of the chamber, with their eyes fixed on him, seeking to an-

rowed the phrase. The priests, in the time of communion, at festivals, salute each other with—Peace be with

⁽r) "Oh, believers! before ye pray, wash your face, your hands, and arms up to the elbows, wipe yourselves from head to foot." Keran.

ticipate his smallest want. His children, standing in his presence, unless he permits them to be seated, preserve every appearance of tenderness and respect: he gravely caresses them, gives them his blessing, and sends them back to the Harem. (s) He only questions, and they reply with modesty. He is the chief, the judge, the pontist of the family, before whom these sacred rights are all respected.

Breakfast ended, he transacts the business of his trade, or his office; and as to disputes they are few, among a people where the voice of the hydra chicanery is never heard; where the name of attorney is unknown; where the whole code of laws consists in a few clear and precise commands, delivered in the Koran; and where each man is his own pleader.

When vifitors come, the master receives them without many compliments, but with an endearing manner; his equals are seated beside him, with their legs crossed; which

writer Viel Verlow on Abacus.

posture

place. It is the apartment of the women, improperly, by us, called Seraglio.

posture is not fatiguing to the body, unembarrassed by dress. His inferiors kneel, and sit upon their heels. People of distinction are placed on a raised sofa, whence they overlook the company. Thus Eneas, (t) in the palace of Dido, had the place of honour, while, seated on a raised bed, he related the burning of Troy to the queen. When every person is placed, the slaves bring pipes and cossee, and set the persume brasier in the middle of the chamber, the air of which is impregnated with its odours; and afterward present sweetmeats, and sherbet.

The tobacco smoked in Egypt is brought from Syria, in leaf, and cut by them into long filaments, it is not so acrid as that of America; and, to render it more agreeable, they mix with it the odorous wood of aloes. Their pipes are usually of jasmin, the end garnished with amber, and often enriched with precious stones: they are very long, and the

(t) Inde toro pater Eneas sie orsus ab alto. Eneid lib. II.

The epithet pater, which Virgil bestows on Æneas, proves this great poet intimately acquainted with oriental manners, among whom the title of Father is the most honourable they can bestow; they are proud of it still,

the vapour imbibed is, therefore, mild, (u) The Orientals pretend it agreeably irritates the palate, while it gratifies the smell. The rich smoke in lofty rooms, with a great number of windows, that give a thorough air.

When the visit is almost ended, a slave, bearing a silver plate, in which precious escences are burning, goes round to the company: each in turn perfumes the beard, and, afterward, sprinkles rose water on the head and hands. This is the last ceremony, and the guests are permitted then to retire. Thus, you see, Sir, the ancient custom, of perfuming the head and the beard, as sung by the royal prophet, (x) is not lost. Anacreon, the father of the session, and the poet of the graces, incessantly repeats, "I delight to sprinkle my body with precious persumes, and crown my head with roses." (y).

ftill, and, on the birth of a fon, quit their own name, and call themselves the Father of such a one.

(u) There are pipes fifteen feet long, and they are commonly five or fix.

ran down upon the beard; even Aaron's beard. Pf. 133.

(y) Anacreon, Ode XV

About

About noon the table is prepared, and the viands brought, in a large tray of tinned copper; and, though not great variety, there is great plenty. In the centre is a mountain of rice cooked with poultry, and highly seafoned with spice and saffron. Round this are hashed meats, pigeons, stuffed cucumbers, delicious melons, and fruits. The roaft meats are cut small, laid over with the fat of the animal, seasoned with salt, spitted, and done on the coals; it is tender and fucculent. The guests seat themselves on a carpet, round the table; a flave brings water, in one hand, and a bason in the other, to wash. This is an indispensable ceremony, where each perfon puts his hand in the dish, and where the use of forks is unknown; it is repeated when the meal is ended. The customs of the East appear to be very ancient.

Menelaus, and the beauteous Helen, having loaded Telemachus and Pisistratus with gifts, gave them a hospitable banquet.

[&]quot;And now when through the royal dome they pass'd,

[&]quot; High on a throne the King each stranger plac'd,

[&]quot;A golden ew'er th' attendant damsel brings,

[&]quot; Replete with water from the crystal springs,

- "With copious streams the shining vase supplies
- " A filver laver, of capacious fize.
- "They wash. The tables in fair order spread,
- " The glitt'ring canisters are crown'd with bread:
- "Viands of various kinds allure the tafte
- of choicest fort and favour, rich repast !" (2)

The manner in which the son of Thetis received the Greek deputies, very much refembled that in which the Egyptians treat their guests.

Achilles starting, as the chiefs he fpy'd, Leap'd from his feat—

- —The chiefs beneath his roof he led, And plac'd in feats (a) with purple carpets spread.
 - -" Patroclus o'er the blazing fire
- " Heaps in a brazen vase three chines entire:
- "The brazen vase Automedon sustains,
- "Which flesh of porket, sheep, and goat contains;
- " Achilles at the genial feast presides,
- "The parts transfixes, and with skill divides.
- " Mean while Patroclus sweats the fire to raise;
- "The tent is brightned with the rifing blaze:
- "Then, when the languid flames at length subside,
- " He strows a bed of glowing embers wide,
- " Above the coals the smoaking fragments turns,
- " And sprinkles sacred salt from lifted urns;
- "With bread the glitt'ring caniflers they load,
- "Which round the board Mencetius' fon bestow'd;
- (z) Pope's Odyssey, book XV.
- (a) The French reads "beds of repose" and the author adds, in a note, "These were sofas of the Orientals, which served them by turns as seats and beds." T.

" Himfelf

" Himfelf oppos'd t'Ulysses full in sight,

" Each portion parts, and orders ev'ry rite.

The first fat offrings; to th' immortals due,

Amidst the greedy flames Patroclus threw;

"Then each, indulging in the focial feaft, (b)

" His thirst and hunger soberly represt." (c)

A poet of less genius than Homer would have supposed his sublime descriptions disfigured by such minutiæ, but how inestimable are they to us! How do they teach us the simplicity of ancient manners! A simplicity lost to Europe, but still existing in the East.

After dinner, the Egyptians retire to the harem, where they flumber some hours amidst their wives and children. A commodious and agreeable place of repose is luxury to them. Thus Mahomet, who neglected nothing that might seduce, acquainted with the wants and inclinations of men, tells them "the inhabitants of paradise enjoy the sweets of repose, and have a place most delighting ful to sleep in at noon." (d).

(b) The French again reads " laid hands on the viands;" and the author says in his note; " No doubt they took it with their fingers, as is practifed at present." T.

(c) Pope's Iliad, book IX.

(d) Coran, chap. XXV.

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The

The poor, having neither sofa nor harem, lie down on the mat on which they have dined. Thus Jesus Christ, at the last supper, suffered his beloved disciple to repose his head upon his bosom (e).

It is customary in the evening, to go on the water, or breathe the fresh air on the banks of the Nile, beneath the orange and sycamore shades. An hour after sun-set supper is served, consisting of rice, poultry, vegetables, and fruits, which are very salutary during the heats: the stomach requires these, and would reject more solid sood. Moderation in eating is the virtue of the climate.

Such is the ordinary life of the Egyptians. Our shews, plays, and pleasures, are to them unknown; a monotony which, to a European, would be death, is delight to an Egyptian. Their days are past in repeating the same thing, in following the same customs, without a wish or a thought beyond. Having neither strong passions, nor ardent hopes, their minds know not lassitude: this is a torment reserved for those who, unable

to moderate the violence of their desires, or satisfy their unbounded wants, are weary every where, and exist only where they are not.

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LETTER XIII.

The paternal authority of the ancient patriarchs perfectly preserved in Egypt: the manner in which the father of a family governs his children, and the respect paid to age.

To M. L. M.

Grand Cairo.

HISTORY places the infancy of human nature in the East; here paternal authority began, and here its rights are still preserved. A father enjoys all the titles nature bestows; the head, the judge, the pontiff, he commands his family, terminates their differences, and offers up the sacrifices of the Courban Beiram. (f) Each family forms a small state,

(f) A Mahometan festival, when each father of a family offers up a sacrifice, proportionate to his means. The rich immolate sheep and oxen; the poor obey the command, by cutting the throat of a pigeon. This feast, held solemn by the Mahometans, happens six weeks after the Ramadan, and recalls to mind the Jewish passover.

Mahomet, unable to abolish sacrifices, divinely authorized in the East, recommends them in the chapter of the

of which the father is king; the members of it, attached to him by the ties of blood, acknowledge and submit to his power. Before his tribunal their disputes are brought, and his sentence, terminating them, restores peace and order. The eldest holds the sceptire, experience is his guide, except in what regards his household regulation, in which he follows the law that custom prescribes.

The children are educated in the women's apartment, and do not come into the hall, especially when strangers are there. Young people are silent when in this hall; if men grown they are allowed to join the conversation: but when the Sheik (g) begins to speak they cease, and attentively listen; if he enters an assembly, all rise: they give him way in public, and every where shew him esteem and respect. In the time of Herodotus

the Pilgrimage of Mecca; but, that he might fanctify a custom idolatry had corrupted, he commanded the invocation of God over the slain animal, and added these remarkable words, "God accepts neither the slesh "nor blood of victims, but is pleased with the piety of those who sacrifice them." Coran.

(g) This title, which fignifies elder, is given to the most ancient of the family; and, also, to those who appertain to the law.

these manners subsisted in Egypt, (b) and the despotism under which it groans serves to preserve them. The neck of its inhabitants bows beneath a yoke of iron. Publickly to display wealth would be criminal; whatever can excite the avarice of its tyrants is carefully concealed, and there is a fear even of feeming fortunate. Within the family walls, only, tranquillity and happiness are to be found; and, as the union of its branches gives fafety, the common interest joins with brotherly love to maintain harmony. The facred laws of nature, in their primitive purity, are here observed. A numerous posterity often resides under the same roof; the children and grandchildren come and pay their common father a daily tribute of veneration and love: the pleasure of being beloved and respected, in proportion as age increases, makes him forget he grows old; the content of his heart sparkles in his eyes, and ferenity smooths the wrinkles of his forehead;

⁽b) Like the Lacedæmonians, who are the only people among the Greeks that pay proper homage to old age, the Egyptians give way to those who are older than themselves, and rise from their seats when they enter. Herodotus. Euterpe.

he is chearful and jocular; and, while his youthful descendants wear the most modest garments, he is decked in the gayest colours. (i) Happy in the bosom of his family, when on the borders of the grave, he perceives not the approach of death, and reclines to everlasting rest amidst the embraces of his chil-Long do they mourn his loss, dren. and each week strew his tomb with flowers, (k) where they recite their funeral The Egyptians have lost the art hymns. of embalming, but not the feelings which gave it birth.

Among polished nations, where the family is more separated, age is not so much respected; nay, it is often disgraceful. The filver haired Sire is often obliged to be filent, in presence of haughty youth; or assume the manners of a boy, to become supportable. In proportion as the burthen of time is felt, and the pleasures of life diminish, he beholds himself an incumbrance even

⁽i) The brightest colours are reserved for the aged, in Egypt, and the youth of corrupted manners, only, are audacious enough to wear fumptuous habits.

⁽k) To strew odoriferous plants over, and recite prayers at, the tomb of relations is a custom in Egypt.

to those who, but for him, had never been. They refuse him consolation when he needs it most, and shut him from their hearts: the cold hand of age withers his faculties, which the kindly slame of silial love warms not. In such nations, the grey haired, feeling father, dies long before he is carried to the grave.

Let us draw a veil over a picture which, thank heaven, is not universal. I was impelled to make the parallel by the affecting scenes I here each day witness, where the reverend patriarch, with his beard floating on his breast, smiles in frigid age, on his grand-children, who approach him with their caresses. He beholds four generations eager to pay him all filial duty, and his heart expands; he delights in life to its last moment, Yes, Sir, these people have, in ignorance, preserved the simplicity of ancient manners; they know not our arts and sciences, but the sweetest sensations of nature, which books teach not, they know, revere, and enjoy.

What I have said might be supported by a thousand examples. I will select only one which is well known. When M. Maillet was Consul (1) at Grand Cairo, the Jesuits

⁽¹⁾ About a hundred years ago.

persuaded the court of France to send for Coptic children to Paris, (m) and there educate them in the Catholic faith, that they might return and convert their heretical nation. Money and promises obtained the confent of some fathers, extremely poor; but, when the time of separation came, paternal tenderness revived in all its force, and they rather chose to remain wretched than to purchase ease by a facrifice too painful to the heart.

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⁽m) Copts are the ancient inhabitants of Egypt, and Jacobine Christians; I shall speak more fully of them hereafter, ben it it it nothe odni bettiente ed

these manners subsisted in Egypt, (b) and the despotism under which it groans serves to preserve them. The neck of its inhabitants bows beneath a yoke of iron. Publickly to display wealth would be criminal; whatever can excite the avarice of its tyrants is carefully concealed, and there is a fear even of feeming fortunate. Within the family walls, only, tranquillity and happiness are to be found; and, as the union of its branches gives fafety, the common interest joins with brotherly love to maintain harmony. The facred laws of nature, in their primitive purity, are here observed. A numerous posterity often resides under the same roof; the children and grandchildren come and pay their common father a daily tribute of yeneration and love: the pleasure of being beloved and respected, in proportion as age increases, makes him forget he grows old; the content of his heart sparkles in his eyes, and ferenity smooths the wrinkles of his forehead;

⁽b) Like the Lacedæmonians, who are the only people among the Greeks that pay proper homage to old age, the Egyptians give way to those who are older than themselves, and rise from their seats when they enter. Herodotus. Euterpe.

he is chearful and jocular; and, while his youthful descendants wear the most modest garments, he is decked in the gayest colours. (i) Happy in the bosom of his family, when on the borders of the grave, he perceives not the approach of death, and reclines to everlasting rest amidst the embraces of his children. Long do they mourn his loss, and each week strew his tomb with flowers, (k) where they recite their funeral hymns. The Egyptians have lost the art of embalming, but not the feelings which gave it birth.

Among polished nations, where the family is more separated, age is not so much respected; nay, it is often disgraceful. The filver haired Sire is often obliged to be filent, in presence of haughty youth; or assume the manners of a boy, to become supportable. In proportion as the burthen of time is felt, and the pleasures of life diminish, he beholds himself an incumbrance even

out and a

⁽i) The brightest colours are reserved for the aged, in Egypt, and the youth of corrupted manners, only, are audacious enough to wear fumptuous habits.

⁽k) To strew odoriferous plants over, and recite prayers at, the tomb of relations is a custom in Egypt.

to those who, but for him, had never been. They refuse him consolation when he needs it most, and shut him from their hearts: the cold hand of age withers his faculties, which the kindly slame of silial love warms not. In such nations, the grey haired, feeling father, dies long before he is carried to the grave.

Let us draw a veil over a picture which, thank heaven, is not universal. I was impelled to make the parallel by the affecting scenes I here each day witness, where the reverend patriarch, with his beard floating on his breast, smiles in frigid age, on his grand-children, who approach him with their caresses. He beholds four generations eager to pay him all filial duty, and his heart expands; he delights in life to its last moment, Yes, Sir, these people have, in ignorance, preserved the simplicity of ancient manners; they know not our arts and sciences, but the sweetest sensations of nature, which books teach not, they know, revere, and enjoy.

What I have said might be supported by a thousand examples. I will select only one which is well known. When M. Maillet was Consul (1) at Grand Cairo, the Jesuits

⁽¹⁾ About a hundred years ago.

persuaded the court of France to send for Coptic children to Paris, (m) and there educate them in the Catholic saith, that they might return and convert their heretical nation. Money and promises obtained the consent of some sathers, extremely poor; but, when the time of separation came, paternal tenderness revived in all its sorce, and they rather chose to remain wretched than to purchase ease by a sacrifice too painful to the heart.

I have the honour to be, &c.

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police a time voice, a concerne, the rates

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casept they a marriage at well freed.

their memory is filtered the one

⁽m) Copts are the ancient inhabitants of Egypt, and Jacobine Christians; I shall speak more fully of them hereaster.

LETTER XIV.

and the product of part of.

An occount of the Almai, or Egyptian Improvisatore, their education, dancing, music, and the passionate delight the natives take in these actresses.

and the body serve who will of the state of

of fow hong and about A wood to Grand Cairo.

EGYPT, Sir, as well as Italy, has her improvisatore, called Almai, or Learned; which title they obtain by being more carefully educated than other women. They form a class very famous in the country, to be admitted into which it is necessary to possess a fine voice, eloquence, the rules of grammar, (n) and be able to compose and sing extempore verses, adapted to the occasion. The Almai know all new songs by rote, their memory is stored with the

(n) The quantity in Arabic and Latin verses is the same, to which the former adds the various measure and rhime of the French. These advantages cannot unite, except when a language is well fixed.

we are appropriately from Securify 1991 Be Brown

best Moels (0) and tales, they are present at all festivals, and are the chief ornament of banquets. They place them in a raised orchestra, or pulpit, where they sing during the feast, after which they descend, and form dances, which no way resemble ours. They are pantomimes, that represent the common incidents of life. Love is their usual subject. The suppleness of these

(o) Elegiac fongs, which bewail the death of a hero, or the difasters of love. Abulfeda has preserved the conclusion of a moal, sung by Ommia, over the cavity in which his kinsmen had been thrown, after the defeat of Beder.

Have I yet not wept enough over the noble fons of the Princes of Mecca?

I beheld their broken bones, and, like the turtle in the deep recess of the forest, filled the air with my lamentations.

Proftrate on earth, unfortunate mothers, mingle

And ye, who follow their obsequies, sing dirges, ye wives, interrupted by your groans.

What happened to the princes of the people at Beder, the chiefs of tribes!

The aged and the youthful warrior, there, lay naked and lifeless.

How is the vale of Mecca changed ? .. Aside as beaut

These desolate plains, these wildernesses, seem to par-

Vie de Mahomet, par Savary, page 83 dancers

dancers bodies is inconceivable, and the flexibility of their features, which take impressions characteristic of the parts they play at will, aftonishing. The indecency of their attitudes is often excessive; each look, each gesture, speaks; and in a manner so forcible as not possibly to be misunderstood. They throw aside modesty with their veils. When they begin to dance, a long and very light filk robe floats on the ground, negligently girded by a fash; long black hair, perfumed, and in treffes, descends over their shoulders; the shift, transparent as gauze, scarcely conceals the skin: as the action proceeds the various forms and contours, the body can assume seem progressive; the found of the flute, the castanets, the tambour de basque, and cymbals, regulate, increase, or slacken, their fleps. Words, adapted to fuch like scenes, inflame them more, till they appear intoxicated, and become frantic bacchantes, Forgetting all referve, they then wholly abandon themselves to the disorder of their fenses, while an indelicate people, who wish nothing should be left to the imagination, redouble their applause,

Thefe

These Almai are admitted into all harems; they teach the women the new airs, recount amorous tales, and recite poems, in their presence, which are interesting by being pictures of their own manners. They learn them the mysteries of their art, and instruct them in lascivious dances. The minds of these women are cultivated, their conversation agreeable, they fpeak their language with purity, and, habitually addicting themselves to poetry, learn the most winning and sonorous modes of expression. Their recital is very graceful; when they fing, nature is their only guide: fome of the airs I have heard from them were gay, and in a light and lively measure, like some of ours; but their excellence is most feen in the pathetic. When they rehearse a moal, in the manner of the ancient tragic ballad, by dwelling upon affecting and plaintive tones, they infpire melancholy, which insensibly augments, till it melts in tears. The very Turks, enemies as they are to the arts, the Turks themfelves, pals whole nights in liftening to them, Two people fing together, fometimes, but, like their orchestra, they are always always in unifon: accompaniments, in music, are only for enlightened nations; who, while melody charms the ear, wish to have the mind employed by a just and inventive modulation. Nations, on the contrary, whose feelings are oftener appealed to than their understanding, little capable of catching the fleeting beauties of harmony, delight in those simple sounds which immediately attack the heart, without calling in the aid of reflection to increase sensitive.

The Ifraelites, to whom Egyptian manners, by long dwelling in Egypt, were become natural, also had their Almai. At Jerusalem, as at Cairo, it seems, they gave the women lessons. St. Mark relates a fact which proves the power of the Oriental dance over the heart of man. (p)

- "And when a convenient day was come,
- "that Herod on his birth-day made a "fupper to his lords, high captains, and
- " chief estates of Galilee; and and an earn
- "And when the daughter of the faid

man respect wears bloom built o mind

⁽p) St. Mark, chap. vi. ver. 21.

[&]quot; Herodias

Herodias came in, and danced, and

" pleased Herod, and them that fat with

him, the king faid unto the damfel,

Afk of me whatfoever thou wilt, and I

will give it thee.

And he fware unto her, Whatfoever

" thou shalt ask of me, I will give it

" thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

" And she went forth, and said unto

" her mother, What shall I ask, and she

" faid, The head of John the Baptist.

" And she came in straightway with

hafte unto the king, and alked, faying,

" I will that thou give me by and by in

" a charger the head of John the Bap-

emotift. Land went sinche nommonent

"And immediately the king fent an

" executioner, and commanded his head

to be brought, and he went and be-

" headed him in the prison."

The Almai are present at marriage ceremonies, and precede the bride, playing on instruments. They also accompany sunerals, at which they sing dirges, utter groans and lamentations, and imitate every mark of grief and despair. Their price is high,

high, and they seldom attend any but wealthy people, and great lords.

I was lately invited to a splendid supper, which a rich Venetian merchant gave the receiver-general of the sinances of Egypt. The Almai sung various airs, during the banquet, and afterwards the praises of the principal guests. I was most pleased by an ingenious allegory, in which Cupid was the supposed interlocutor. There was play after supper, and I perceived handfuls of sequins were occasionally sent to the singers. This sestival brought them sifty guineas, at least; they are not, however, always so well paid.

The common people have their Almai, also, who are a second order of these women, imitators of the first; but have neither their elegance, grace, nor knowledge. They are seen every where; the public squares and walks round Grand Cairo abound with them; the populace require ideas to be conveyed with still less disguise; decency therefore will not permit me to describe the licentiousness of their motions and postures, of which no idea can be formed

formed but by feeing. The Indian Bayadieres are exemplarily modest, when compared to the dancing girls of the Egyptians. This, Sir, is the principal diversion of these people, and in which they greatly delight.

I have the honour to be, &c.

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LET-

formed but by freing. The Indian Baya-

-cros ned LETTER XV.

The private life of the Egyptian women, their inclinations, morals, employments, pleasures, the manner in which they educate their children, and their custom of weeping over the tombs of their kindred, after having strewed them with flowers and odoriferous plants.

To M. L. M.

Grand Cairo.

I HAVE already, Sir, described the mode of life of the men, but have said little concerning that of the women. This Oriental reserve will not please a European; (q) I will, therefore, endeavour to give you a general idea of semale manners, in this country.

(q) The Egyptians never mention their wives in conversation, or, if obliged to speak of them, they say the mother of such a person, the mistress of the house, &c. Good manners will not permit the visitor to ask, How does your wise do, Sir? But, in imitation of their reserve, it is necessary to say, How does the mother of such a person do? And this they think an insult unless asked by a kinsman, or an intimate friend. This I relate as persectly characteristic of Eastern jealousy.

LET

In

In Europe, women act parts of great consequence, and often reign sovereigns on the world's vast theatre; they influence manners and morals, and decide on the most important events; the sate of nations is frequently in their hands. How different in Egypt, where they are bowed down by the fetters of slavery, condemned to servitude, and have no influence in public affairs. Their empire is confined within the walls of the harem. There are their graces and charms entombed: the circle of their life extends not beyond their own family and domestic duties. (r)

Their first care is to educate their children, and a numerous posterity is their most fervent wish; public respect and the love of their husband are annexed to fruitfulness. This is even the prayer of the poor, who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow; and, did not adoption alleviate grief, when nature is unkind, a barren woman would be inconfolable. The mother daily suckles her child,

⁽r) The compiler Pomponius Mela pretends women do the out-door business, in Egypt, and men that of the household. Every writer who has been in this country disproves the opinion.

whose infant smiles, added to frequent pregnancy, recompences all the cares and pains they incurred. Milk diseases, and those maladies which dry up the juices of the youthful wife, who fends her offspring to be nurtured by a stranger, are here unknown. That mothers should suckle their young is a law as ancient as the world; it is expressly commanded by Mahomet. "Let "mothers fuckle their children full two " years, if the child does not quit the breast; " but the shall be permitted to wean it with "the confent of her husband." (s) Ulysses, in the Elyfian fields, beholds his mother, his tender mother, there, who had fed him with her milk and nurtured him in infancy. (t)

When obliged by circumstances to take a nurse, they do not treather as a stranger; she becomes one of the family, and passes her days amidst the children she has suckled, by whom she is cherished and honoured as a second mother.

Racine, who possessed not only genius but all the knowledge necessary to render genius conspicuous, stored with the learning of the finest works of Greece, and well acquainted with oriental manners, gives Phædra her

⁽s) Coran.

⁽t) Odyffey, book xxiii.

nurse as her sole confidante. The wretched queen, infected by a guilty passion she could not conquer, while the satal secret oppressed a heart that durst not unload itself, could not resolve to speak her thoughts to the tender CEnone, till the latter had said

Cruelle, quand ma foi vous a-t-elle déçue?

Songez-vous, qu'en naissant, mes bras vous ont réçue?

When, cruel queen, by me were you deceived? Did I not first receive you in these arms?

The harem is the cradle and school of infancy. The new-born seeble being is not there swaddled and filleted up in a swathe, the source of a thousand diseases. Laid naked on a mat, exposed in a vast chamber to the pure air, he breathes freely, and with his delicate limbs sprawls at pleasure. The new element in which he is to live is not entered with pain and tears. Daily bathed beneath his mother's eye, he grows apace; free to act, he tries his coming powers, rolls, crawls, rises, and, should he fall, cannot much hurt himself, on the carpet, or mat, which covers the floor. (u)

(u) The rooms are paved with large flag flones, washed once a week, and covered in summer with a reed mat, of artful workmanship, and a carpet in winter.

He is not banished his father's house when seven years old, and sent to college with the loss of health and innocence; he does not, tis true, acquire much learning; he perhaps can only read and write; but he is healthy, robust, sears God, respects old age, has filial piety, and delights in hospitality; which virtues, continually practised in his family, remain deeply engraven in his heart.

The daughter's education is the fame. Whalebone and busks, which martyr European girls, they know not; they run naked, or only covered with a shift, till six years old, and the dress they afterwards wear confines none of their limbs, but suffers the body to take its true form, and nothing is more uncommon than ricketty children, and crooked people. Man rises in all his majesty, and woman displays every charm of person, in the East. In Georgia and Greece, those fine marking outlines, those admirable forms, which the Creator gave the chief of his works are best preserved. Apelles would still find models worthy of his pencil there.

The care of their children does not wholly employ the women; every other domestic concern is theirs: they overlook their house-

hold,

hold, and do not think themselves debased by preparing, themselves, their own sood, and that of their husbands. Former customs, still subsisting, render these cares duties. Thus Sarah hastened to bake cakes upon the hearth, when angels visited Abraham, who performed the rights of hospitality. Menelaus thus entreats the departing Telemachus:—

- "Yet stay, my friends, and in your chariot take
- "The noblest presents that our love can make :
- "Mean-time, commit we to our women's care
- " Some choice domestic viands to prepare; (x)

Subject to the immutable laws by which custom governs the East, the women do not associate with men, not even at table, (y) where the union of sexes produces mirth, and wit, and makes food more sweet. When the great incline to dine with one of their wives, she is informed, prepares the apartment, persumes it with precious essences, procures the most delicate viands, and receives her lord with the utmost attention and respect. Among the common people, the women usually stand, or sit in a corner of the room, while the husband dines, often hold the bason

⁽x) Pope's Odyssey, book xv.

⁽y) Sarah, who prepared the dinner for Abraham and his guests, sat not at table, but remained in her tent.

MA. for

for him to wash, and serve him at table. (2) Customs like these, which the Europeans rightly call barbarous, and exclaim against with justice, appear so natural here, that they do not suspect it can be otherwise elsewhere. Such is the power of habit over man: what for ages has been he supposes a law of nature.

Though thus employed, the Egyptian women have much leisure, which they spend among their slaves, embroidering sashes, making veils, tracing designs to decorate their sofas, and in spinning. Such Homer painted the women of his times.

- "But not as yet the fatal news had spread
- "To fair Andromache, of Hector dead;
- " As yet no messenger had told his fate,
- " Nor e'en his stay without the Scoan gate.
- " Far in the close recesses of the dome,
- " Penfive she ply'd the melancholy loom;
- " A growing work employed her fecret hours,
- " Confus'dly gay with intermingled flow'rs.
- " Her fair-hair'd handmaids heat the brazen urn,
- "The bath preparing for her Lord's return:" (a)
- (2) I lately dined with an Italian, who had married an Egyptian woman, and assumed their manners, having lived here long. His wife and sister-in-law stood in my presence, and it was with difficulty I prevailed on them to sit at table with us, where they were extremely timid and disconcerted.
 - (a) Pope's Iliad, book xxii.

Telemachus,

Telemachus, seeing Penelope speak to the suitors on affairs to which he thought her incompetent, says—

- "O royal mother! ever-honoured name!
- " Permit me (cries Telemachus) to claim
- " A fon's just right. No Grecian prince but I
- "Has pow'r this bow to grant, or to deny.
- " Of all that Ithaca's rough hills contain,
- " And all wide Elis' courfer-breeding plain,
- "To me alone my father's arms descend;
- " And mine alone they are to give or lend.
- " Retire, oh Queen! thy houshold task resume,
- "Tend, with thy maids, the labours of the loom;
- "The bow, the darts, and arms of chivalry,
 - "These cares to man belong, and most to me."

Pope's Odyssey, book xxi.

The Queen, far from being offended at this freedom, retired, admiring the manly wisdom of her son.

Labour has its relaxations; pleasure is not banished the harem. The nurse recounts the history of past times, with a feeling which her hearers participate; chearful and passionate songs are accompanied by the slaves, with the tambour de basque and castanets. Sometimes the Almai come, to enliven the scene with their dances, and affecting recitals, and by relating amorous romances; and, at the close of the day, there is a repast, in which exquisite

exquisite fruits and perfumes are served with profusion. Thus do they endeavour to charm away the dulness of captivity.

Not that they are wholly prisoners; once or twice a week they are permitted to go to the bath, and visit semale relations and friends. To bewail the dead is, likewise, a duty they are allowed to perform. I have often seen distracted mothers round Grand Cairo, reciting suneral hymns over the tombs they had strewed with odoriserous plants. Thus Hecuba and Andromache (b) lamented over the body of Hector;

(b) I will infert the complaints of Andromache and Fatima, the daughters of Mahomet, that you, Sir, may compare them.

ANDROMACHE.

- " And, Oh my Hector! Oh my Lord! she cries,
- " Snatch'd in thy bloom from these desiring eyes!
- "Thou to the difmal realms for ever gone!
- " And I abandon'd, desolate, alone!
- " An only fon, once comfort of our pains,
- " Sad product now of hapless love remains!
- " Never to manly age that fon shall rife,
- " Or with encreasing graces glad my eyes:
- " For Ilion now, (her great defender flain)
- " Shall fink a smoaking ruin on the plain.
- "Who now protects her wives with guardian care?
- " Who faves her infants from the rage of war?
- " Now hostile sleets must wast those infants o'er,
- "Those wives must wast 'em to a foreign shore!

" Thou

Hector; and thus Fatima and Sophia wept over Mahomet. This custom was not unknown

to

- " Thou too, my fon! to barb'rous climes shall go,
- " The fad companion of thy mother's woe;

to test rovo everyall

- Driv'n hence a flave before the victor's fword;
 - "Condemn'd to toil for fome inhuman lord.
 - " Or else some Greek, whose father prest the plain,
 - " Or fon, or brother, by great Hector flain;
 - " In Hector's blood his vengeance shall enjoy,
 - " And hurl thee headlong from the tow'rs of Troy,
 - " For thy ftern father never spar'd a foe:
 - "Thence all these tears, and all this scene of woe!
 - "Thence, many evils his fad parents bore,
 - " His parents many, but his confort more. !
 - " Why gav'ft thou not to me thy dying hand?
 - " And why receiv'd not I thy last command?
 - " Some word thou would'ft have fpoke, which fadly dear,
 - " My foul might keep, or utter with a tear;
 - "Which never, never could be loft in air,
 - " Fix'd in my heart, and oft repeated there!
 - "Thus to her weeping maids she makes her moan ;
 - "Her weeping handmaids echo groan for groan."

 Pore's ILIAD, book xxiv.

FATIMA.

- Oh my father! Minister of the most high! Pro-
- " phet of the most merciful God! And art thou gone?
- With thee divine revelation is gone also! The angel
- "Gabriel has, henceforth, for ever-taken his flight into
- the high heavens! Power supreme! hear my last prayer; hasten to unite my soul to his; let me behold
- " his face; deprive me not of the fruit of his righteouf-
- " ness, nor of his intercession at the day of judgement."

Then

to the Romans; they had their funeral urns strewed with cypress. How charmingly does the elegant Horace shed slowers over that of Quinctilius! How affecting, how passionate, is the ode he addresses to Virgil on the death of their common friend. (c) Among European

Then taking a little of the dust from the cossin, and putting it to her face, she adds,

"Who, having smelt the dust of his tomb, can ever find odour in the most exquisite perfumes! Alas!

" agreeable fensations are all extinct in my heart! The

« clouds of forrow envelop me, and will change the

" brightest day to dismal night !"

Vie de Mahomet, par Savary, page 235.

(c) "Wherefore restrain the tender tear?

"Why blush to weep for one so dear?

" Sweet muse, of melting voice and lyre,

Do thou the mournful fong inspire.

Quinctilius-funk to endless rest,

" With death's eternal fleep opprest !

" Oh! when shall faith, of foul sincere,

" Of justice pure the fifter fair,

44 And modesty, unspotted maid,

" And truth in artless guise array'd,

" Among the race of human kind

" An equal to Quinctilius find?

" How did the good, the virtuous mourn,

" And pour their forrows o'er his urn?

" But, Virgil, thine the loudest strain,

" Yet all thy pious grief is vain,

pean nations, where ties of kindred are much relaxed, they rid themselves all they can of the religious duties which ancient piety paid the dead; but the reason why we die unregretted is because we have had the missortune to live unbeloved.

The Egyptian women receive each other's visits very affectionately: when a lady enters the harem, the mistress rises, takes her hand, presses it to her bosom, kisses, and makes her sit down by her side; a slave hastens to take her black mantle; she is entreated to be at ease, quits her veil and her outward

- " In vain do you the gods implore
- "Thy lov'd Quinctilius to restore,
 - Whom on far other terms they gave,
 - " By nature fated to the grave.
 - "What though you can the lyre command,
 - " And sweep its tones with softer hand
 - " Than Orpheus, whose harmonious fong
 - " Once drew the listening trees along,
 - "Yet ne'er returns the vital heat
 - " The shadowy form to animate;
 - " For when the ghost-compelling god
 - " Forms his black troops with horrid rod,
 - " He will not, lenient to the breath
 - " Of prayer, unbar the gates of death.
 - " 'Tis hard, but patience must endure,
 - " And foothe the woes it cannot cure."

FRANCIS'S HORACE, ode xxiv.

1.

thift, (d) and discovers a floating robe, tied round the waist with a sash, which perfectly displays her shape. She then receives compliments according to their manner. (e) "Why my mother, or my sister, have you been so long absent? We sighed to see you! Your present seems an honour to our house; it is the happiness of our lives!" &c.

Slaves present coffee, sherbet, and confectionary; they laugh, talk, and play; a large dish is placed on the sofa, on which are oranges, pomegranates, bananas, and excellent melons. Water, and rose-water, mixed, are brought in a ewer; and with them a silver bason to wash the hands, and loud glee and merry conversation season the meal. The chamber is perfumed by wood of aloes, in a brazier; and, the repast ended, the slaves dance to the sound of cymbals, with whom the mistresses often mingle. At parting they several times repeat,

⁽d) A habit of ceremony, which covers the dress, and except the collar, greatly resembles a shift. It is thrown off, on sitting down, to be more at ease, and is called, in Arabic, camis.

⁽e) Such titles as madam, miss, or mistress, are unknown in Egypt. A woman advanced in years is called my mother; when young, my sister; and, if a girl, daughter of the house.

God keep you in health! Heaven grant you a numerous offspring! Heaven preserve your children; the delight and glory of your family! (f)

While a visitor is in the harem, the husband must not enter; it is the asylum of hospitality, and cannot be violated without satal consequences; a cherished right, which the Egyptian women carefully maintain, being interested in its preservation. A lover, disguised like a woman, may be introduced into the forbidden place, (g) and it is necessary he should remain undiscovered; death would otherwise be his reward. In this country, where the passions are excited by the climate, and the difficulty of gratifying them, love often produces tragical events.

The Turkish women go, guarded by their eunuchs, upon the water also, and enjoy the charming prospects of the banks of the Nile. Their cabins are pleasant, richly embellished, and the boats well carved and painted. They are known by the blinds over the windows,

⁽f) I mention these wishes, very ancient in the East, because they are sound often in the Holy Scriptures.

⁽g) I have said harem signifies forbidden place.

and the music by which they are accompa-

When they cannot go abroad they endeavour to be merry in their prison. Toward fun-setting they go on the terrace, and take the fresh air among the slowers which are there carefully reared. Here they often bathe; and thus, at once, enjoy the cool, limpid water, the persume of odoriferous plants, the balmy air, and the starry host which shine in the sirmament.

Thus Bathsheba bathed, when David beheld her from the roof of his palace. (b)

The Turks oblige the public criers to swear they will shut their eyes when they call the people to prayer, that their wives may not be seen from the high minarets. Another more certain precaution, which they take, is to choose the blind to perform this pious function.

Such, Sir, is the usual life of the Egyptian women. Their duties are to educate their children, take care of their household, and live retired with their family: their pleasures to visit, give feasts, in which they

(b) 11 Samuel, xi. 2.

7 3 1

often

often yield to excessive mirth and licentiousness, go on the water, take the air in orange groves, and listen to the Almai. They deck themselves as carefully to receive their acquaintance as French women do to allure the men. Usually mild and timid, they become daring and furious when under the dominion of violent love: neither locks nor grim keepers can then prescribe bounds to their passions; which, though death be suspended over their head, they fearch the means to gratify, and are feldom unfuccessful.

I have the honour to be, &c. said to firefigith of the

to Economistic country. Facts are better then described a foresting reminer of a people.

I that be careful that no indecestey theil pervade the picture, but, if the colour are glow." ing, the sates of the Robiett and Polent are lesiment bed short another blo-ne nakel as Centrian girl of facean and actroined and to worsh have But where is there

half address and the breed remailing as breeze pon fied the Land bear Ruler , he had e moralization of the state of the frame

Vol.1. N LET-In

ful Jemily, his wife, to go, and take the evening air. Slaves of both fexes always attended havxThR HerTwItcHedIthe walls. and stood centinel at the gates; the women hard a long with the language within where the language frayed among orange bowers. The murmuring streams, the fresh verdure, the tender plaints of the Marte Mores, which people thefe at burne but increased her melancholy. She plucked fruit, and eat, without appears HA Tid may finish the portrait I have begun, I will relate a love adventure. Sit. which lately happened at Rosetta; and this will give you some idea of the strength of the passion in this country. Facts are better than arguments to shew the manners of a people. I shall be careful that no indecency shall pervade the picture; but, if the colours are glowing, the nature of the subject must plead my excuse-18 the fun, and drew her attention.

Hassan, an old jealous Turk, had married a Georgian girl of fixteen, and appointed guards to watch her. But where is there guard so vigilant as love? This wealthy lord possessed fine lands near Rosetta; he had a magnificent garden a quarter of a league from the town, whither he permitted the youth-

ful Jemily, his wife, to go, and take the evening air. Slaves of both fexes always attended her XThe men watched the walls. and stood centified at the gates; the women waited on her within, where the languidly strayed among orange bowers. The murmuring streams, the fresh verdure, the tender plaints of the turtle doves, which people these asylums, but increased her melancholy. She plucked fruit, and eat, without appetite; frengathered flowers, and finelt, without pleafurer Ash the was gravely walking one evening by the liver fide, veiled, and furrounded by her flaves, to go to her garden, the perceived a European, who lately had arrived at Rolettan His dress being to diffe rent from the Turkith, made him remarkable gips The colours of youth were vivid onnhis cheeks, which were not yet tanned by the fun, and drew her attention. She paffed flowly, and wet ther fan fall, that the might have a presence to stop a moment. (k)

tradition of the card and the card and the card to the

Their fare per feathers, half oircular in a show whither he perpitted the youth

VISVS

Her eyes met his, and the look went to her heart; the air, the Thape, the features of the firanger were imprinted in her memory ; and the impossibility of speaking to, the dread of feeing him no more, gave her a painful fente of flavery. Thus constraint kindled amomentary inclination into impetuous passion. Scarcely had the arrived, among the arbours of her garden, before the escaped from the croud; and, taking one of her women ande, in whom the had most confidence, faid, "Didft thou perceive the young ftranger? Didft thou behold his bright eyes, and how he looked upon me? O, my friend My dear Zetfa! Go, find him; tell him to walk, the day after to-morrow, among the orange groves, without the garden, beside the wood of dates, where the wall is loweft say HI wish to see, to speak to him: only bid him thun the watchful eyes of my pitiles keepers!"

The message was punctually delivered, and the European unguardedly promised; which promise the fight of approaching danger made him break. The slave, disguised as a tradef-woman, went a second time, and asked him why he had not kept his word. His excuses

were various, and he fixed a distant time, that he might have leifure to reflect on confequences. Reflection again vanquished paffion, the fight of an impaled wretch cooled his fortitude, and he went not to the rendez-vous.

proached him, described how ardently her mistress loved him, and hated the old Hassan, praised her charms, her beauty, and lamented the misfortunes of a person stolen from her parents, and sold to a barbarian. The youth, seduced by her discourse, swore that, on the morrow, he would be under the arbour an hour after sun-set.

The beauteous Jemily, ever believing, though ever deceived, had been to the bath. Her black locks, a contrast to the pure white of her complexion, sprinkled with rose-water, hung in tresses that reached to the ground; her robes were richly perfumed; an embroidered sash shewed her slender waist, and bound these her light robes, which, having none of the stiffness of art, took the contour of her body. Her mantle and her veil were thrown aside; an Indian handkerchief, adorned with pearls, encircled her head. Though

every grades of iyouth attended bers (beaftill feared the was not beauteouseenoughed Impay tiently the weited fornetimes haftening her steps, fometimes as fuddenly stopping, and at others, extending herfelf on the ground, sollet among to and acrushed mithe betender affiliation The least noise made her shudder and glance toward the appointed arbours of her funitwas no omore feen in the thrighto ftars bappeared) and night, here to delightful, for magnificent, whole accoling prefences reftores spowerished the languid body, and all its energy to the foul; had spread her veil over nature, and ther dark afhades over the bower where fighed the amorous Jemily sau Each breathas each rustling leaf, obrought sear and hope altermately to the hearth Sufpence, ethat tortuder of impatient love, gave hen athousand racking thinking only of her lover, whose imatduob brifting has seminated derived and anthird time the faw herfelf deceiveded Fury takes place of affection; the breathes vengeance, determines to have the life of the perjuret: but having more dove than vanity, hope and idelire foon extinguish wrathwest 55 No; he off thall notedieusiGo, go, my dear Zetta, at hear him the words of peace odifpet his " fears, VIII.

diffears) describe my love, and bid him come feared the was not beauteoulewarightes! bngan 20 Zetfanteturnedmionthe Buropean, Calmed Mistapprehenfions, and paffionately described the tenderness of her mistress and the happis mefswthat awaited him be Incapable of swiths fanding pictures to feductive, the imprudent youth once more promiled; but, left to himfelfis the dread of an ignominious death once more made him violate his word. Patience itself has a period; that of Jemily was longe nine months the folicited alman whom the had feen but a moment; finding in affect tion new excuses, one means failing, pursuing another; still unable to submit to the loss of him the had taken formuch pains to obtains One evening, after thedding tears of bitterness, forgetting herfelf in the grove, and thinking only of her lover, whose image incoffantly pursued her, Haffan, tired of waiting, treated her harfhly The charm was broken; the retired, furious, to her apartment : but, though despairing Love breathed wengeance, yet the fentence he pronounced he softened. "Once more go," faid the, to her faithful Zetfa; 15 to-morrow at day-break; find the ff perfidious European, and bear him thefe es fears, NA my

Bus

thought thou hadd densibility, and my beart panted to be thined. Nine months thou had deceived me a perjury to thee is forth But, beware; thy life is in my hands; (m) and I am determined. Hastan will despart for Faoua on Thursday; he will return that, and receive thy pardon, or a flave shall the bring me thy head or Jemily swears by the Prophet, if longer ineglected, to be the revenged of the part of the prophet, if longer ineglected, to be

Zetfa faithfully reported these words, and the European hesitated no longer. Death, with promised pleasure, he preserved, made the slave a present, conjured her to calm the anger of Jemily, and faithfully promised he would be at the rendezvous a little after surfet. He was not, however, without his sears; perhaps he was to be punished for former perfidies. Could a Turkish woman find pleasure in pardoning; or does wounded pride for give? The day comes, and his fears encreases a thousand wandering thoughts, a thousand sensations consound and distract his mind.—

(m) A Turkith woman may easily have a foreigner affaitinated, or even publicly executed, if the please.

Depart

Depart he must, and the idea of a beauteous woman waiting for him enflamed the imagination, and veiled the danger. He armed himself, crossed the rice fields, stole along the wood of dates, and came to the wall which divided him from the beauteous Georgian. His heart palpitates; he looks, leaps the wall, and enters the garden. Two women, at feeing him, rife, and appear terrified, while he frands motionless d'The one it was Jemily herfelf -held out her hand, and He approaches, bows gave him courage. profoundly; is kindly raised; a fign is given, and the flave disappears. Stranger," faid femily, "why haft thou deceived me fo st long? Thou leveft me not." " Pardon. beauteous Jemily; my fears have detained me; but I'am come to repair my wrongs at se your feet." She feemed as if the would have continued her reproaches; but, taking the youth's hand, which trembled in her own, the led him to an orange grove. The moonbeams filvered the foliage. But here, without further description, let us leave the lovers.

There seems little probability in an event like this, judging from European manners; and I might easily have frenchised the story, and and made it credible enough; but the world would only have gained one enormore, would have faid the Egyptians are like Europeans; without recollecting the imments difference of the licentious liberty of the fex in one place, and flavery, as licentious in its effects, in the other. I am more fatisfied with relating fact, should it feem to want probability than giving fable the appearance of truth hims and had been added to the appearance of truth hims and had been added to the honour to be accepted.

To M. L. M.

Grand Cairo

YOU are surprised, Sir, I have not yet mentioned the pyramids, and expects description that shall clear and determine your doubts. This is the very reason of my shence, my delay arose from the desire I had to obtain certainty, and such information as should fatisfy your curiosity. One wint was not sufficient, and I am just returned from paying them a second, in company with the Comte them a second, in company with the Comte desire of instruction brought him to Egypt, and who, in addition to the qualities we call amiable, possessivit and learning.

bliow of the Egyptians are like Busy and blow have failed blow have failed blow have failed blow have failed being from Grand Cairottol Giza, where attended from Grand Cairottol Giza, where attended from Giza to the Pyramids, and a gradie of their beights, extracted from ancient mand modern travellers, proving the great pyramid is fix bundred feet bigh, and that in the time of Herodotus, before the fand had accumulated round the base, its perpendicular height was eight bundred feet.

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You are surprised, Sir, I have not yet mentioned the pyramids, and expect a description that shall clear and determine your doubts. This is the very reason of my silence; my delay arose from the desire I had to obtain certainty, and such information as should satisfy your curiosity. One visit was not sufficient, and I am just returned from paying them a second, in company with the Comte D'Antragues, a French nobleman, whose desire of instruction brought him to Egypt, and who, in addition to the qualities we call amiable, possesses wit and learning.

- We left Grand Cairo after dinner, proceeding through that part of it called Hanefi. The Nile was on our right, and the canal of the prince of the faithful on our left. The plain we croffed reaches to Foltat, and is inverfected by lakes, clustering trees, gardens. and pleasure houses, appertaining to the grandees. The most considerable is that of Ibrahim Bey, Sheik El Balad, 10 whither he often takes his wives, who range in a vast enclosure of orange trees, and pomegranates, with a terrace, over which is a portico that looks down upon the river; here a part of their captivity is passed. A little farther a grand edifice rifes, inhabited by dervices; and which, scandal says, affords subject of confolation to the beauteous prisoners.d sugas.

Paffing this plain, we came to the mouth of the canal of the prince of the faithful, and the water-works; and, traverling a part of Old Cairo, embarked near the Mekias, and landed at Giza, where the French merchants have hired a handsome country house. Here we passed the evening, impatient to continue our route; but, previous to this, a prefent

⁽⁰⁾ The title of the most powerful Bey, as I have before faid, fignifying governor of the country. Stigin

was necessary, to the Kiachef. (p) who promised us two Cheiks. (q) to protect us from the plundering Arabs. This, formerly, was a voluntary gift, a mera mark of respect, it is now a tribute, which the governor lays on European curiosity. It originated with the English, who, returning from Bengal, never fail to visit the pyramids. The folly and vanity of these Nabobs, who deal out their gold by handfuls, has made travelling more expensive, and difficult, for persons who have not governed the rich provinces, of Bengal.

The present accepted, and the escort come, we left Giza about an hour after midnight, and scarcely had proceeded a quarter of a league before we perceived the tops of the two grand pyramids. We were but three leagues from them, and the moon shone on them with full splendour. They appeared like two pointed rocks, with their summits in the clouds, and the aspect of these antique monuments, which have survived nations, empires, and the ravages of time, inspired veneration. The calm of nature, and the silence of

⁽p) Governor.

⁽⁴⁾ Men of the law; or of authority among the Arabs

might sadded to their majesty and the milds caffing a retrospective glance tower the lages that have passed by these mountains, which time himfelf cannot hake, a shadders awith involuntary awe. Peace be to the last of the feven wonders of the world to Honburg BE the people by whom they were raifed tentoon trides the rich plains that furround them? Fable has placed the Elylian fields, their interfecting canals are the Styx and the Lethe! The creations of Mythology here gleam across the mind mand the shades of her learned. her warlike, her poetical, her virtuous, heroes, glide and shoot, appear and disappear; at fancy's call. How highly is poetry indebted to these places; and how highly are they indebted to poetry; Jung as they have been enomious stones, cref semoHome suomone

We approach the pyramide, which, with afpect varying, according to the windings of the plain we traverie, and the fituation of the clouds, become more and more diffined. At half past three in the morning we found ourselves at the foot of the greatest, we lest our clothes at the door, where it is entered, and descended each with a torch. We proveded till we came to a place where we were obliged

obliged to crawle like frakes, bto pass finto the fesque entry which corresponded to the first w We then afcended on four knees, fupla porting ourselves with our hands against the fides, otherwise we were in danger of fliding precipitately down an inclined plane, athe notches, or steps, of which did not afford certain foot-hold adWerfired a piftol about the middle the fearful noise of which was long, reverberated among the cavities of this immense edifice and which awakened thous fands of bats much larger than those of Europe, that, darting up and down, beat against our hands and face, and extinguished feveral of our lights. Come to the top, we eptered, through a very low door, a great obling chamber, entirely of granite. b Seven enormous stones, crossing from one wall to the other, formed the ceiling of A farcophagus, cut from a block of marble, is placed at one end; it has been violated by man, for it is sempty, and the lid has been torn off. Bits of earthen vales are scattered round. Beheath this chamben is another, lefs, where is the entrance of a conduit, full of rubbilb. After examining these caverns, where the light of days never enters, and the shades voficternal obliged night

night grow more thick and dark, we defeend ed by the way we came, taking care not to tumble into a well, (r) which is on the left, and which reaches to the bottom of the pyramid. The air within this edifice, being never changed, is fo hot and mephitic as almost to sufficate: When we came out, we were bathed in fweat, as pale as death, and might have been taken for spectres, rifing from the abyss of darkness. Having eagerly breathed the open air, and refreshed ourselves, we haftened to feale this mountain of man. It is composed of more than two hundred layers of stone that recede in proportion to their height, which is from four feet to two. These enormous steps must all be mounted, to arrive at the fummit; and this we undertook, beginning at the North East angle, which is the least damaged, but did not accomplish our talk till after half an hour's fevere laboure town and paid there and the series

Day began to break; and the East gradually assumed more glowing colours: we fat enjoying a pure sit and a most delicious contacts. The sun-beams foon gilded the top

⁽r) This was known to Pliny—" There is a well in the Pyramid 86 cubits deep." lib. 36.

of Makkatam, (s) and foon rose above it, in the horizon, we received his first rays, and beheld, at a distance, the tops of the pyramids of Saccara, three leagues from us, in the plain of Mummies. The rapid light discovered, every moment, new beauties, the tops of minarets, of date-tree groves, planted sound the villages, and on the hills, and the flooding beams alike inundated mountains and valleys: the herds left the hamlets, the boats spread their fails, and our eyes followed the vast windings of the Nile. On the North were sterile hills, and barren fands; on the South the river, and waving fields, vast as the ocean; to the East stood the small town of Giga; and the towers of Fostat, the minarets of Grand Cairo, and the castle of Salah Eddin, terminated the prospect. Seated on the higheft, the most ancient, the most wonderful, of the works of man, as upon a throne, our eyes, wandering round the horizon, beheld a dreadful desert, the rich plains in which the Elyfian fields had been imagined, villages, towns, a majestic river, and edifices which seemed the work of giants. The universe contains not a landscape more variegated, more magni-

⁽a) A mountain which overlooks Grand Cairo.
Vol. I. O ficent,

ficent, more awful; which more impels con-

Having engraved our names on the top of the pyramid, we cautioully descended; for the deep abyss lay before us; a piece of stone breaking under our hands, or beneath our feet, had cast us headlong down.

Once more fafe at the bottom, we made the tour of the pyramid, contemplating it with a kind of terror. Dooked at near, it feems composed of detached rocks but a hundred paces distant, the largeness of the structure, and they appear very small.

To this day, its dimensions are problematical. Since the time of Herodotus many travellers and men of learning have measured it; and the difference of their calculations, far from removing, have but augmented, doubt. I will give you a table of their admeasurements; which, at least, will serve to prove how difficult it is to come at truth.

To me it feems evident that Greaves and.

Niebuhr are prodigiously deceived, in the perpendicular height, of the grand pyramid.

All travellers agree it contains, at least, two hundred and seven layers, which layers are tagent.

Height of the grand laid Width of one fide.
templation, more elevates the louising Principle
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Niebuhrah adt ao 440 nammi-adt ni stolei 2700 li Greaves - 444 and voor 200 quad 4818
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Niebubr in the immero44 of the first diagrams of the first day are problemed and the control of the day are problemed and the control of the time of the redocus many anatical. Since the time of the codotus many travellers and men of icon particular calculations it; and the difference of their calculations for from removing, have measured the difference of their augmented doubt. I will give voil a rable of their of their
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Niebuhr are prodigiously deceived, in the perpendicular height of the grand pyramid. All travellers agree it contains, at least, two hundred and seven layers, which layers are

from four to two feet high. (a) the highest are at the base, and they decrease intentity to the top. I measured leveral which were more than three feet high, and I found home that were less than two; therefore, the least mean height that can be allowed them is two feet and a half, which, according to the calculation of Greaves himself, two five hundred and leventeen feet, in which five hundred and leventeen feet, in a least give hundred and leventeen feet, in a least, and perpendicular height. guissing the intention of the hundred and leventeen feet, in a least, and he will give hundred and leventeen feet, in a least, and height.

do in the differ of the fococke, who differ in the numnot, and Pococke, who differ in the numnot of the ps only from two hundred and twelve, all have
leven to two hundred and twelve, all have one
least damaged. I did the lame, and counted two hundred and eight; but, if we
detected the north-east and eight; but, if we
leads to the orth of the orth of the leads of the l

evilage) The fleps are from two feet and a half to four on feet high not being so high towards the top as at the bottom. Peach's Travels well I a 48

The height of the first layer is five feet; but this height intentibly decreases to the top of Profest Alpinus, and the base and the ba

This pyramid has two hundred and eight steps of large stones, the mean height of which is two feet and a half, for some thug I Amea sugarded en higher; and were above three seet. The pend, page 242.

remark

remark that the pyramid has been opened vominthe fide fronting the defert, that the stopes have been thrown down, and that the fands which have covered them have formred a confiderable hill, we hall no longer wonder that Albert Leweinstein, Belon, and Prosper Alpinus, who ascended either the fouth east or south-west angle, less exposed to the sands of Lybia, found a greater numbernof steps; for which reason, their cal-culation, agreeing with that of Diodorus and Strabe, foems nearest the true height of the pyramid, taken from its original base; hand we have cause to believe it was at least over hundred feet high. What Strabo fays is analmost proof positive. "About half way up, oppone fide, is a stone, that may be removed, ow which stops up an oblique entry that " leads to the coffin, which is deposited motowithinbuther pyramide is (4) This entry, which is is now open, and which; in the time of Strabo, was about half way the base. Thus the rubbish of the coating

This pyramid has two hundred and eight steps of large stones, the mean height raf. dibiodans weaker and a half, for somewhypuA dosgaddson igler; but were

lo zbove three feet. There, page 242.

of the pyramid, and the stones dug out and taken from the infide, fince covered by fands, have formed, in this place, a hill two hundred feet high. Pliny supports this opinion. (2) The grand (phinx, in his age, stood fixty-two feet above ground; but its body is now buried under the land, and the neck and head only appear, which are twen-ty-seven feet high. If this sphinx, which the pyramids thelter from the north winds that drift up the fands of Lybia, has, nevertheless, been covered thirty feet, imagine how great must be the quantity gathered on the north fide of an edifice which intercepts these sands, by a base of more than seven hundred feet in extent. To this we must attribute the prodigious difference between the accounts of the historians, who meafured the grand pyramid, in diffant times, and at opposite angles. Herodotus, who lived nearest the time of its foundation, when its real base was bare, allows it to have been eight hundred feet square, (a) which I think very probable. This is also the opinion of Pliny, who fays is covered a space

mora so

fel Shawes Travels.

⁽²⁾ Pliny, lib., 36. sorn mena bob serva V. (b) (e) About the middle of the Augustan age (a)

of eight acres. (6) Shaw, (c) Theyenot, and taken from the inhole, fince covered who have pretended this pyramid was never tinihed, because it is open and is not coated, are mistaken. That it was coated will be proved by the remains of mortar, Aill found in feveral parts of the steps, mixed with fragments of white marble: and, if we read, attentively, the description the ancients have given of it, every doubt will vanith, and truth be feen in all its lufte. Let us examine a few of these passages.

The grand pyramid was coated by polithed stones, perfectly joined, the least of which was thirty feet long. It was built in the form of steps, on each of which wooden machines were erected, to raise the stones to the next. Herodotus Euterpe.

18,000

and at opposite apgles. Herodolus who senos to fine binaryq branch to silve time bit its toundation. very difficult to work, but, of eternal year of a work are hitherto preferved duration. They are hitherto preferved without damage, (e) and were brought

(c) Shaw's Travels.

(d) Voyage de Levant, page 255. dil (vnilq (z)

(e) About the middle of the Augustan age.

nion of Pliny, who fays incomercally (space

REGUENATION SHEET ANTENIE OF STREET OF STREET with marble: the facil isulusie carobid. -Partie Minbridge thought the Whole etilde hall been build of stones while to state leaning, which was to suvery hard martie. Had this coating been broken, in part, the who vifited this pyramidol viderilor s, andh more The grand pyramid is Bulletiof Rodes, boy brought from the quarries of Arabiqi and banishe far from the village of Builds, where people live who have the gacity with which this author has greetly sonWe lee that Pliny, deceived by appearances, was under the fame error as Diedo-Trus | But the passage clearly shows the pyramid was coated. of hofact, vice would whot have been durprizing what the inhabitante of Buliris could mount a building that had steps; but it was exceedingly for that they should ascend a mountain, the four fides of which prelented a valt furface of polished marble slabs, laid slanting.

I shall forbear being more particular, to

⁽f) This village still remains, is called Bousir, and is only a short league from the pyramids.

Prove

prove that other grand pyramid was recated with marble: the fact is incontestible. That it was Aput is usqually drug, asrappears from Strabo and that by railing a Gone placed about the middle of one of its fides an antry was found, which led to the tombof the kinges Tod Maillet, who visited this pyramid forty times, with all imaginable care, I will leave the honour of informing you what the means employed to appendit were. I have twice examined it within, have twice afcended to its fummit and cannot forbear admiring the fagacity with which this author has unveiled the mechanism of that aftenishing edifice. To this letter therefore L will subjoin shis enquiries, and his plan, shecause I can fpeak only as he has fpoken, and the merit of the discovery is his right of thall only add all few notes, which I have thought had steps; but it was exceedinglyrallorent they should ascend a mountain, the four sides of which presented a vali surface of polished marble slabs, laid slanting.

I shall forbear being more particular, to

(f) This village still remains, is called Bousir, and is only a short league from the pyramids.

the centre of the pyramid, and to the chambers where the bodies of those who built is IMVIX has seen seet long, and be passage is a hundred feet long, and be discovered to substitute the substitute of the subst

of the pyramid, whence fienes, of a pro-

HEnpyramid has not only been coated, id HEnpyramid has not only been coated, hiand rendered entire without, but closed, blade, and opened with violence; which it is will hundertake to prove, beyond all indoubt, which prove, and opened and to beyond aid to

This violence is first perceived at the natural entry of the pyramid; whence have been taken, as may be seen with a little theattention, some of the stones which once shut it, and which were enormously large. These stones were placed above a passage which, by a rather steep desent, ded to the

the centre of the pyramid, and to the chambers where the bodies of those who built it mulk have been deposited. This paffage is a hundred feet long, and begins a hundred feet from the base of the pyramid It is got at by a kind of mountain, of the fame height, formed from the ruins of the pyramid itself. It is three feet three inches fquare, and was wholly filled with stones, well fitted of the same marble with itself. Above the aperture by which it is entered, we find an extent of nine or ten feet, in the body of the pyramid, whence stones, of a prodigious fize, have been taken, as is evihent from the remaining fromes! This, salone, would suffice to prove the pyramid has been closed fince these stones could fooly have been removed to find the mouth of this passage; or, more easily to come fat the stones which were within the paf-Sage, and which were fastened to those they were forced from . See And Having of forced these prodigious mones, and those of the peffage which were below thefe sofult; it was eafy to extractione others, by the purchase they would obtain on the adduce A · part

ospart that projected. vile is sinppofed that, eved make whise more idifficult. when the oftones were minferted dimbthe apaffage, bthey were neoated with man't exceedingly throng electment that they imight offix themselves smore firmly, to the fides lafithes paffage, and become of a piece with the edifice; but joby superior bforce, and bhoth water, potred in the passage Bithe cement westfoft ened, and the flones detached, which were afderwards got out without much trouble. Certain le is shey found a method of vexwithour injuring the every Hones which form the passage it they are fill well polified as atofirst, lexcept atomhe bottom of the passage, where they have chiffeled, at convenient diffances, boles two or three fingers deep; which precaution was e necessary, to facilitate the entrance and fireturn from the pyramid, were it not for this affiftance, it would not be poffible to descend the passage, without sliding bapidly to the bottom; or to return without having ropes faltened on the outlide. to & Labinted above, other passage, was, made be of marble : 19 1 how and a that sthe frones, which form the four fides, are of the treme · fineft.

Mineffeloganfequently ithesiderdeffit white, wolley and white of the wolley wolder wellow, ruelos sidte naskatteddurbthonpa (karle brias) gound the furfaces from dength of time ofg Oriental thefer prodigious fromes, nawhish, e asil havetfaid, exerceforced from the ovracomilde above the entrance of the paffage is sofit found there so and it is usual for those showifithis illustrious monumentato get -tow it and dat bolt is of the fame marble besidend albucontradiction was well as those which form the other passages, On this princopled have affirmed, the stones which clo-Mifed the first passage, I have just described, efant even all the other passages of the pyradimits were of the fame materials in chosen, no doubt preferably to all others, for its ex-

Colzoum, on the western shore of the Red Sea, is an immense quarry of this yellow marble. The sandy plain, which leads to it is called Elarata the plain of Carts, which paine it so doubt obtained from the carts, used to carry the marble to the Nile, whence it was transported by water, almost to the foot of the pyramids. Herodotus and Pliny assume the stones, with which they were could were brought from the quarries of Arabia, because that part of Egypt was then talled Arabia one sould made and and doubt them.

themeshardness. This may be easily proved, by irraining when half of the stone, which · fills remains par Co where is the quaction between the outward and inward paffage. · The infide of the pyramid is to darks and · blackened, by the imoke of tandles, and 'torchespowhich, for ages, have been burnt in going to visit it, that to judge of the qua-· hty of the flones of the chambers and other · places, enclosed in this wonderful pile, would be difficult; we only can lee that their polith is extremely fine; that they are of the utmost hardness, and lo perfectly ' joined that the point of a knife cannot enter the interflices between them of the interference When they had emptied this the passage, and ended this painful labour, they came to a fecond, Still more confiderable. The talk then was to extract the ftones that filled this fecond, which afcended, towards the top of the pyramid, with the fame fudden fleepnels that the other had defcended : and, alfo, to find the beginning of this passage, which, I imagine, they did, though the stone that closed it, fitted it is justly as to leave no indication of any aper-

ture whatever. They only might perceive that

that it did not, white mthe others, destend over the top of the Art pallage in which they would discover, by sounding, with the point of a knife, or some other instruct ment, with which they might penetrate the ement, that united the four fides of which the superficies of that stone was computed, and which joined it to those of the passage beneath The entrance to this feeded pale fage was ten feet diftant from the further end of the first, the better to deceive those who should attempt to discover itto This frone was attacked first, which was no easy work; the place was confined, and it was necessary to lay on the back, and work above the head, the arms having but little force, and the body in continual danger of ben ing crushed, by a masty stone, that every inflant might fall, which may be feen at C. The mallet and chiffel having conquered the refistance of this first stone, which must have been keyed, or some way fasten. ed, another succeeded, which, gliding down, covered the mouth of the passage and to extract which a different kind of labour was necessary noi This they effected as but, another still presenting itself, they thought that Y.

this mode too tedious, renounced it, and having prevented the descent of the stones, which followed and stopped up the mouth of the passage, they forced a way, forty feet long, and eight or ten in height and width, at D, through the stones that surrounded the bottom of the first passage. This forced passage (b) is at E. In some places it is · low, and confined, in others a man may fland upright; this was a work of infinite labour. Afterward turning to the left, toward the fecond paffage, they took three or four stones out of its side, which made an opening from fifteen to twenty feet in extent at G. But it is necessary, before we fpeak of the continuation of this work, to observe that the stone which really closed this passage, where it communicated with the first, exactly proportioned to the place, and entirely stopping up the mouth, has been removed; as I have faid: for the frome at the mouth of this passage at present, does not fit; but, on the con-(b) It is unequal, crooked, and very different from the passages of the pyramid; which prove it has been

(b) It is unequal, crooked, and very different from the passages of the pyramid; which prove it has been forcibly effected. What must have been the labour to penetrate a mass so enormous, and in a situation so confined, for more than forty seet!

trary,

trary, leaves a void of five or fix fingers, at

its top; which ought to be that much longer

than its bottom. See letter F. Having broken and extracted the three flones at G, by which they came to the fecond passage, it was necessary to clear all the other stones away; not only those which corresponded to this opening, but those, ' also, which were continued to an unknown extent. This was a difficult and tedious work, fince only one person could be employed, in a space three feet three inches fquare. It might be suspected; likewife, that, besides the numerous stones they should find in this passage, they might come to an opener place, where there might be a long continuation of stones, again ready to slide down, and stop up the passage to the center of the pyramid. To avoid which, in part, instead of breaking the stones one after the other, at G, where the passage had been attempted, and begun, they resolved to sustain the stones in the passage, and, by a prop, or some other means, to support the stone above that they intended to break. Accordingly they began; and, attacking and breaking this fucceffion of Vos. I. flones,

flones, each sustained by props of propor-

tionate length, they continued the work,

from stone to stone, without widening the

extent of the passage, till they came to the

end of it, and to an upper space, of which I

fhall presently speak.

' It is proper to observe that, for the whole .

extent of this passage, great efforts were

necessary, to break the stones by which it

was filled; the strokes of the mallets they

employed, and those struck on the chissels,

used to accomplish the work, have so much

' injured the fides of the passage that, square

as it was, they have almost made it round : a

certain proof they worked from top to bot-

tom, and, consequently, propped the stones

in their places to break them; for, had this

work been performed at the opening made

at G, that part, only, of the passage would

have been disfigured, and the remainder,

eighty feet in length, (see letter H) from

which the stones would have only slipped

down to the vacant place, would have re-

mained perfect; as in the other places,

where the fides are entire, quite to the

chamber.

' Having arrived quite at the end of this · passage, passage, they found its upper part open, and that it had lost a foot in depth; fince it was only two feet and a half deep. This part however widened, on each fide, a foot and a half; making three feet, and increasing the width to fix feet and a half; thereby forming, on each fide of the passage, two elevations, or benches, of two feet and a half high, and one foot and a half wide. The paffage continued, in the fame direction, for the space of a hundred and twenty-five feet, according to the measurement I caused to be made; others say a hundred and forty. At the end of these benches, and this passage, was an esplanade, or platform, eight or nine feet in depth, and fix and a half wide; like the space ' above the benches. This is indicated by the letter R, in the figure, No. 2, on a ' larger scale, which is given of this part of the pyramid. At intervals of two feet and a half, they have cut, perpendicularly, in s the benches, from bottom to top, next the wall, niches (or mortises) a foot long, six 'inches wide, and eight deep. I shall ex-' plain their use hereafter. These benches, and niches, which accompany the paffage P, P 2 are are shewn at the letters Q Q. The fides of the gallery rife above the benches, twenty-five feet high: for the height of twelve feet, the wall is perfectly equal; it is then ' narrowed by a stone, which projects three fingers; and, three feet above that, by another; at the same distance by a third; ' and three feet higher, again, by a fourth; ' all equally projecting. It is only four feet from this to the roof; which is flat, and ' nearly the same width as the passage at the bottom of the gallery; that is to fay, about three feet three inches. This elevation was ' necessary to the architect, to place the stones. ' which were to close the passages. What I ' have faid of the narrowing of the gallery, ' at stated distances, is indicated by the letters SS. Leaving the passage H, at first entering the gallery, an opening is found, on the right, in the wall: it occupies a part of the bench, is almost round, and cut in the form of a small door, of about three feet high, and two and a half wide. From this aper-' ture is a descent into a well; of which, and ' its use, I shall speak presently. See I.

'Having once come to the gallery, it was 'not difficult to break the stones which filled the the passage P; because, they were not only above the benches, but, the greater width of the gallery left the workmen free to use beetles, and strike, with ease, on the ' iron wedges, which they employed to remove and break these stones. Or they ' might begin with the last, which was easier to break than the others, because they might ' stand upright in the passage, and accomplish their purpose with greater ease. Having done this, and removed the broken stones, by examining the bottom of the groove, they would perceive that the first stones, with which this bottom was covered, to the ex-' tent of fourteen or fifteen feet (fee L) did not cross the benches; and would then easily remove them, one after the other. This place cleared, they would find a platform, ten feet in length, and equal in height, at the end of which was a continuation of the passage, which formed a triangle of fourteen or fifteen feet extent, at the entrance of the gallery. On a level with this platform, and to the left of the passage which led to the gallery, they would fee a continuation of the passage three feet three inches square. This new passage was covered by the stones 'they

had just removed; and, they would easily

divine, it, necessarily, led to some secret

' part of the pyramid, and would resolve to

fatisfy their doubts. This passage (see

letter N) might eafily be emptied of the

flones by which it was stopped up; they

having room to work, and to remove them,

in a straight line. They were broken in

the open space, at the entrance of this

passage, which they found was a hundred

and eighteen feet in length, and at the end

of which was a vaulted chamber.

'This chamber (see letter O) is seventeen

· feet and a half long, fifteen feet ten inches

wide, and has a femi-circular ceiling. On

the eastern fide, there is a niche, sunk three

feet in the wall, eight feet high, and three

wide; which, no doubt, was for a mum-

' my, placed standing, according to the cus-

tom of the Egyptians. Probably, it was

the body of the Queen, whose husband

built the pyramid; nor have I any doubt

but that his body was deposited in the

chamber above, perpendicular to this, but

about a hundred feet higher, (See letters

O and D D.) On entering the chamber O,

' the last stone, on the right hand, was

· bevelled.

bevelled, that is, sloping at one end, which projected about three fingers; this had been purposely done, to prevent the stone, which was to close the passage N, from entering this chamber: and, we have reason to believe, this closing stone had a corresponding bevel, that it might fit exactly and ' join the wall of the chamber, which anfwered to this entrance. I cannot leave this place without remarking a discovery I made, in the upper part of the passage. (b) To others, more able, I will leave the decision of what might have caused this s accident: for my own part, I either think it the effect of an earthquake or of the finking of this enormous body, which may be more heavy on one fide than another, or have a less solid foundation. I certainly saw no ' fimilar defect, in any other part of the pyramid, though I examined it with the most scrupulous exactitude; particularly

(b) A long and remarkable crack, at least fix lines wide, and strikes at first sight. It is on the side facing the Nile; and, perhaps, the part of the mountain, the soot of which is watered by the river, which siltres through the sands, has given way a little, under the weight of this vast pyramid.

every part of the gallery, with a careful curiofity; and, as it was impossible to intro-'duce a pole, through the winding entrance, which it is necessary to go through, to come to the passage, I had several sticks tied together, at the end of which lighted torches were fixed; these I raised as near to the ceiling as possible, and to the wall, without discovering any defect. I only observed that the fides were injured, in some places, and that, on the right, a part of the wall had been carried away, above the narrowing of the gallery; which accident, no doubt, was occasioned by the fall of some stone, in the · clofing of the pyramid, the manner of which 'I shall hereafter describe, that, having s escaped from the workmen, fell from the top of the fcaffolding, and broke the part where it alighted. The man and the state of the state of

I must further say that, it is probable, they were persuaded there was some hidden treasure, under this sirst chamber. This will be seen by a forced entrance, that has been made, through which, crossing several unequal stones, there is a way into the body of the pyramid, twenty or sive and twenty paces deep. The stones, broken, and removed

moved from that place, at present, almost fill this chamber. The same attempts have been made in the chamber above; though, probably, in both places, the only recompence, for the infinite pains they had taken, in spoiling works so beautiful, was the vextation of having spent much time and trout ble to no purpose.

The fecret of this first chamber discovered, nothing remained but to penetrate to that which enclosed the body of the king. They had no doubt but they should find it f on a level with the esplanade, which, as I have faid, was at the high end of the gallery; and they imagined, with reason, it ought to be fituated exactly over the first. In fact, sat the end of this esplanade, which, in fig. 12, is denoted by the letter R, they found s a continuation of the three feet three inch ' passage, perfectly closed; see letter T. This they began to clear; and it is probable the closing stone was so firmly fixed that the flabour of removing it was great. This may be feen, by a piece of the upper stone having been broken, to obtain a purchase, f no doubt, on the one beneath, that stopped

up the passage. After many efforts, they removed it; and, also, effected the removal of a second, and came to a space seven feet and a half long. They wished to proceed to the end of this paffage; but, after these two stones, they found a third, which could not be drawn out, because it was wider, and higher, than the aperture. This was the · last refuge of the architect, to deceive whoever might penetrate thus far, and prevent continuing the fearch for the mysterious chamber, in which, twelve paces distant, the body of the king reposed, and his treasures with him, provided any had been fo depo-· fited. This difficulty did not, however, · mislead the workmen, nor discourage those · who had undertaken the fearch of the pyramid. The stone was attacked with mallet and chiffel, and, after much time and labour, broken; for it was fix feet long, four wide, and, perhaps, from five to fix high: because here we find a space of fifteen feet high, · which, after rifing eight feet, enlarges four, or thereabouts, toward the gallery. This extension is denoted in the plate, fig. 2, by the &c. It corresponded with an aperture in the passage, a foot and half wide, which

was two feet before the great stone, and the

purpose of which I shall describe presently.

At the top of this space, there was a hol-

low, a foot deep, and nearly the fame in

height, in the wall that every way closed the

· paffage, see A A; which had been purposely

made to sustain powerful levers, or cross

beams, over which strong ropes were thrown,

that held the great stone, by means of iron

rings, and suspended it in the space Z,

which it filled, till fuch time as they suffered

it to fall, over the passage BB; that is to

fay, till the body of the king had been

deposited in the chamber. The aperture,

of a foot and half, made in the passage, see

V, and which was two feet before the

fpace the great stone occupied, had been left

for the workmen to retire, after the descent

of this enormous stone. This aperture was

afterward closed, by a stone of the exact

fize, and only two feet thick, which was

brought under that aperture, and to which

they had fixed two rings, toward its upper

end, to which two rings two chains were

fastened, which corresponded, above, with

' another heavier stone, hanging over the aper-

' ture

ture Z, which the great stone had occupied, and which had been left void, when it was fuffered to fall, over the passage. The ropes that sustained this enormous stone, were supoported by the post (or pillar) Y. There was a counterpoifing weight, however, on the s lower stone, till the workmen should retire, through the cavity of a foot and half, I have mentioned, and which was between this stone and the upper aperture. Having got out, through this cavity, the counterpoise was removed, and the stone fell into its place, in which it was held by another from, that had been toothed, three fingers wide; which toothing was purposely done, and was three fingers thick, and fix or feven wide; as may be seen, at present, about a ' man's height, when, entering the pyramid, and leaving the three feet three inch paffage, one rifes upright, in the space V. The toothing (see letter X) of these stones was the last secret, employed to preserve the chamber from violation, and merits attention. Along the fide walls of the space where the large stone, fix feet long and four wide, was enclosed, round flutings may be seen, three fingers deep, and described by short

' parallel

* parallel lines in the plate (fig. 2.) which had been cut that the stone might more easily,

and more exactly fall into its proper place.

· They were also meant to render it stronger,

and more folid, in case of being attacked.

These precautions will prove the extreme

care employed to preferve the corpfe of the

King from violation; supposing men should

be found impious and daring enough for

· fuch an enterprize. If, after the stone, a

foot and a half wide, and three feet fix

inches long, which was the measurement of

the aperture V, cut in the passage, was put

in its place, and adjusted, the least opening

remained, this was filled up with cement.

We may also suppose the stone, itself, had a

coating of cement, before it was raifed into

the space it was to fill, which would ren-

der its ascent slower by counter-action; the

handle of the mallet would eafily clear away

the superfluous cement, and let it into its

* place. This stone no longer subsists, nor

'yet the great one, which was obliged to

be broken, to remove it out of its place.

No one, however, who with the smallest

attention, examines the manner in which

the described spaces are disposed, and which

are only fix feet before the entrafice of the

chamber, where the corpse of the King was

placed, but will rest persuaded these things

' have been thus managed; of who will not

admire the art, and ability, of the architect,

who had but the small space of nine feet

to perform all this in. To make the un-

derstanding of this easier, the figures of

these (2 and 3) have been given on a larger

fcale; the eye, in fuch cases, being a bet-

ter interpreter than the pen.

'Having cut away, bit by bit, the great

from the grooved space, where it had

descended, they came to the last, which

ended at the chamber, and filled up the

· space B.B. This was not difficult to re-

' move; it gave very little trouble. They

then might freely enter the mysterious

chamber, fo well defended, D D. The roof

of this is flat, and composed of nine stones:

the seven middle ones are four feet wide,

and above fixteen long; fince they rest, on

and above fixteen long; fince they felt, on

each fide, on the two walls, to the east and

west, and which are sixteen feet from each

other. The two remaining stones seem on-

' ly to be two feet wide, each, for what

there is more of them is concealed, by the

two other walls over which they are laid.

What was found in this chamber I leave to

the imagination: history tonly undertakes

to record actions either laudable or fuch as

ought to be avoided, and not to perpetuate

the memory of outrages which attack na-

ture, because they are, in themselves, suffi-

ciently detestable. Thus, burying in obli-

' vion the name of the sacrilegious invader

of this mausoleum, it means to leave us ig-

onorant of the fecrets it enclosed. All we

know is that this chamber, now, whatever

it might have done, contains nothing but

'a case (or tomb) of granite, seven or eight

feet long, four wide, and as many high.

(c) It was here fixed when the place

was closed at the top; and the reason it

fill subfifts, is, it could not be taken away

without breaking, and when broken would

have been of no service. It had a lid, as

may be feen by the manner of its rims;

(c) It feems to me this farcophagus was of yellow marble, like that of the first stone, found at the entrance of the first passage. A naturalist who should examine these different marbles, and those got from Mount Colzoum, some leagues from where the monastery of St. Anthony is built, would give to truth the most positive of proofs.

but it was broken when taken off, and no remains of it are to be found. Here, no doubt, the body of the King was deposited, enclosed in two or three cases (or coffins) of precious wood, according to the custom of the great. Most probably, also, this chamber contained many other coffins, befide that of the monarch: those, especial-'ly, who were here entombed with him, as it were, to keep him company. In fact, when the body of the King, by whom this pyramid was built, was laid in this fuperb mausoleum, living people were here introduced, at the fame time, never to come out, but to be buried alive with the prince: which thing I cannot doubt, after the coneviction I have had of its truth: my opi-' nion is founded on what follows. Exactly in the middle of the chamber, which is thirty-two feet in length, nineteen high, and fixteen wide, are two holes, opposite each other, three feet and a half above the floor. The one, turned toward the north, is a foot wide, eight inches high, and runs, in a right line, to the outlide of the pyramid: this hole is now stopped up by stones, five or fix feet from its mouth, The other, cut toward

toward the east, the same distance from the floor, is perfectly round, and wide enough to put in the two fifts; it en-· larges, at first, to a foot diameter, and · lofes itself, descending toward the bottom of the pyramid. These two holes are at CC; and I think, and hope, that fensible people will suppose with me, these holes were both made for the use of the persons who were here thut up with the body of the king. Through the first, they were to receive air, food, and other necessaries; and they had, no doubt, provided a long case, for this purpose, proportioned to the fize of the hole; with a cord, by which the persons in the pyramid might draw it to them, and another without, by which it might be again drawn back. apparently, were the means which supplied the necessities of those who were within the pyramid, fo long as any one remained living. I suppose each of these persons to be provided with a costin, to contain his corpse, and that they successively rendered this last pious duty to each other, till only one remained, who could nor have this affistance, granted to the rest of his com-Vol.I. panions.

The other hole ferved for the panions. voidance of excrements, which fell into a deep place, made for that purpose. I meant to have fearched the outfide of the pyramid, for the place that should correspond with the oblong hole, and toward which two punctuated lines are drawn, on the plate which represents the infide of the building.* Here it is possible I might have found new proofs of what I have 'advanced: this fearch, however, might not only have given umbrage to the powers of government, who would not have failed to have supposed some treasure was attempted to be discovered, but I thought the hole might terminate in fome hollow of the outfide, and apprehended I might find it totally stopped up, either by the body of the pyramid, or by the coating flone. Others, from what I have related, ' may fearch the part to which this aperture should correspond, and thus gain complete proof of its destined use; though,

choimag

^{*} There are no fuch lines on the plate: they have been omitted, through fome miftake, and we have not thought ourselves authorized in supplying what can only be accurately imagined by having been seen. T.

to me, whis is not doubtful, nor does it

Having explained, as clearly as the subject would permit me, by what means,
and efforts, the pyramid was forced, and
opened, I have now to remove a doubt,
which the reading of what I have said may
have raised. It may be asked, Where
were all the stones, necessarily employed
in closing the passages I have described,
stored up? And in what manner were
these passages closed, by workmen who
were to get from within? This explanation will not be less curious, or merit
less admiration, than the former.

I have already observed that, along the benches of the passage P, which was at the bottom of the gallery, niches, or mortises, had been perpendicularly cut, a foot long, six inches wide, and eight deep: see QQ. These mortises, perfectly corresponding with each other, through the whole length of the benches, were each two feet and a half distant, and had been made, when building the gallery, that each might contain a piece of wood, a foot square, and three or four feet long,

from which fix inches had been cut at the bottom, for the fpace of eight fingers, agreeing with the mortifes, into which they were to fit. They were to raise a fcaffold on, destined to sustain the stones. wanted to fill all the passages, which were to be closed, within the pyramid, as well as the passage P at the bottom of the gallery.* These posts were cut in like manner at their upper end, and long pieces of wood, with mortifes, similar to those of the benches, rested on these uprights, and formed, from one fide of the gallery to the other, a fafe ftay, from bottom to top, on which to nail boards, fix feet and a half long, fix inches thick,

four rows of Rones might be laid, of to st * The letter of indication, in the French, is F; but the letter F, in the plate, is at the mouth of the fecond passage, very distant from the gallery: this must, therefore, have been a mistake. It may not be improper to add, there, that the text in this paffage indicates, by fingers M. Maillet meant inches; and that, with a few exceptions, a more literal, consequently less elegant, translation of this than of any other letter in the work was requifite: not even excepting the measurements, and technical phrases, neceffary in describing the antiquities of Alexandria and and in the complete which the Thebes. T.

and well planed, whereon a first row of fromes was laid. The benches, as I have faid, rose two feet and a half above the bottom of the gallery. I suppose the scaffold was placed at the height of three feet flabove the benches, therefore, from the bottom of the gallery to the scaffold was an elevation of five feet and a half, which was fufficient for the workmen to fland supright. I likewise observed that from the bottom of the passage to the ceiling of the gallery was twenty-feven feet and a half, and from the bottom of the passage to the fcaffold we may allow fix, the remainder from the fcaffold will then be twenty-one and a half, in which space four rows of stones might be laid, of three feet and a half high, the fize necessary to fill the passages, and there would still remain a space of seven feet and a half above the flones; but I will suppose that, between each row of stones, boards, three inches thick, were placed in order that they might be more eafily removed, by fliding them dalong these boards. Three rows of Rones were sufficient to fill all the apertures which are, at present, emp-· tied. Q 3

tied. It may be that there are other paf-

fages, not opened, in the body of the

pyramid, fince the gallery would eafily

· contain four rows of these stones, and even

five, if needful. This may be proved by

• the calculation I have given, and it is not

probable they would raise the gallery, more

than was necessary, to the weakening the

whole body of the building.

But let us content ourselves with the dis-

covered passages which have been forced and

opened. Let us confider the quantity of

frones with which they certainly were filled,

and which have been broken, except three

feet and a half, or four feet, of these same

flones, which remain at F, and which still close

' the entrance of the passage H, which commu-

e nicates with the first. I call this first (see B)

• the exterior paffage, because it was closed

from without, while the others were filled

"up within the pyramid itself, from the stones

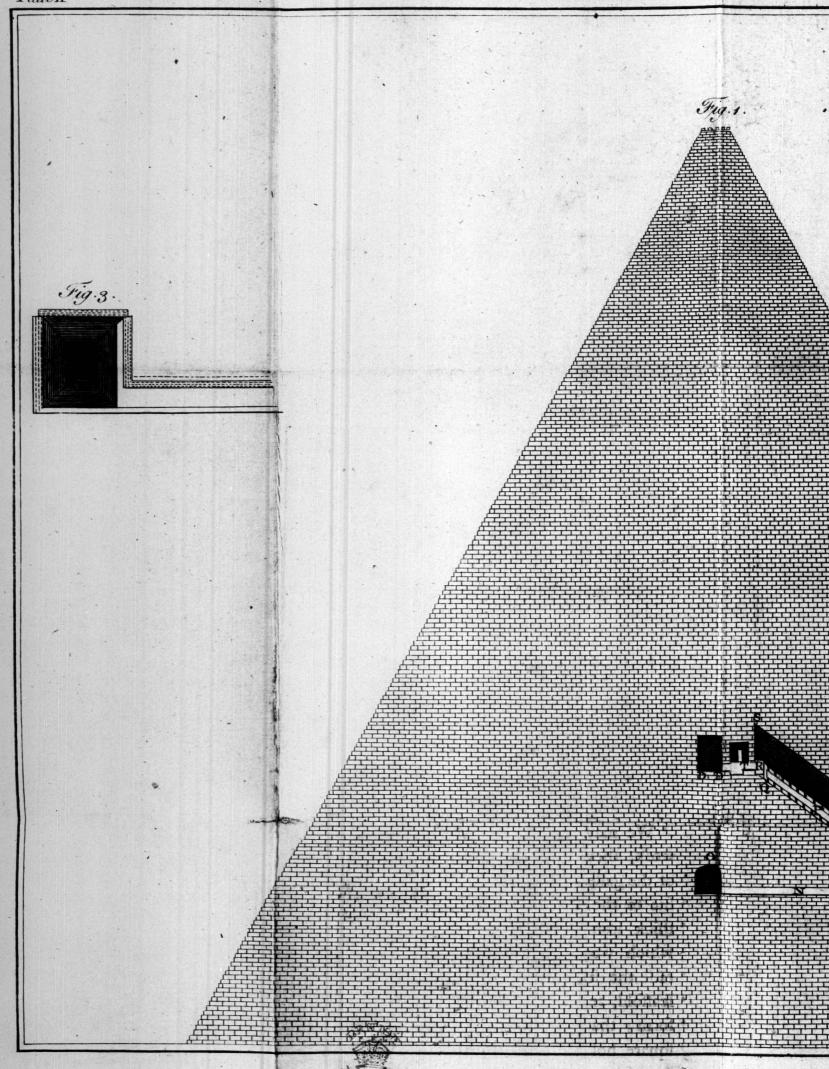
placed along the gallery; and I allow three

rows of stones for the filling all these pas-

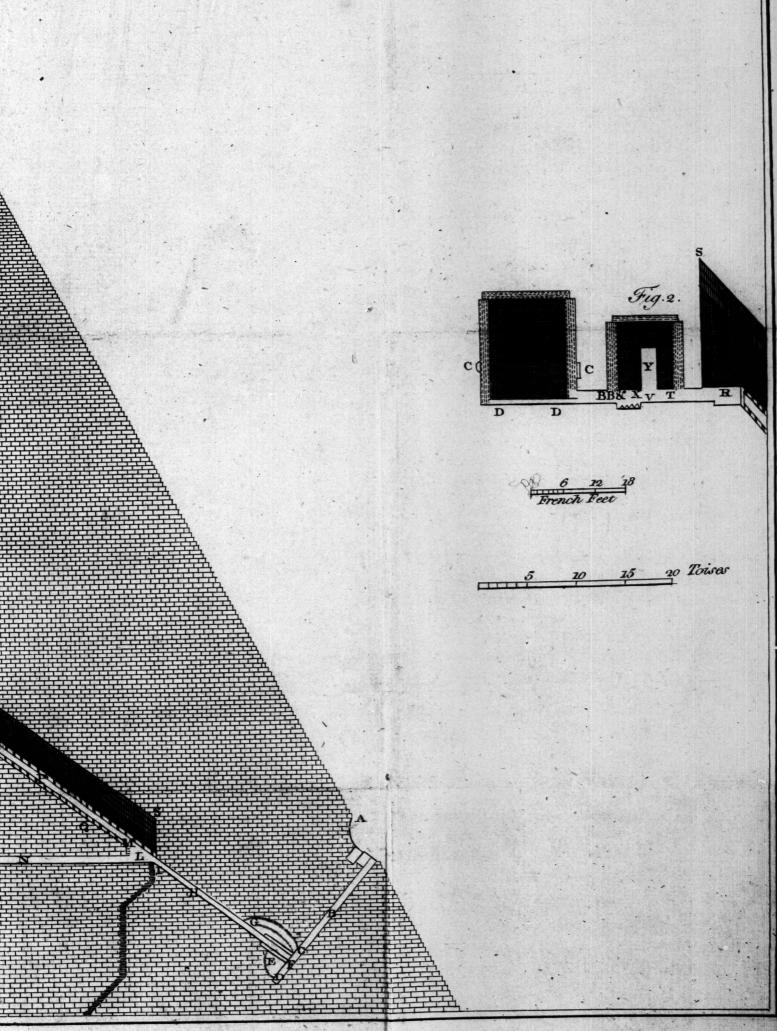
' fages, the justness of which may be found

"by calculation.

Thirteen feet and a half of stone was necessary to fill the passage which led to



Plan of the Inside



Inside of the Great Pryramid.

the royal chamber, and which was on a level with the esplanade, at the upper extremity of the gallery. A stone of fix feet was let down from the scaffold at R. and pushed up the passage to the entrance of the chamber at B, (fig. 2) where it was stopped by the flooring of the chamber, which was two finger's higher than that of the passage. . They afterwards let the stone of six feet fall over this passage, which I before spoke of as suspended in the space Z. Then, the workmen having retired through the aperture V, and this aperture closed, two other flones, of feven feet and a half, were let down from the scaffold, and perfectly filled up the passage, which was nineteen feet long. We may suppose that, to facilitate their work, they had fixed to the wall at the end of the gallery, next the esplanade, and oppofite to the stones ranged on the scaffold, a thick iron crook, with a strong pulley, by which workmen on the platform might raise the stones one after another from the fcaffold, and let them down upon the plat-

form; that afterwards the workmen made a fquare hole on the fide of the stone next

themselves, three or four finger's deep, and

Q4 wider

wider at bottom than at top, into which

they inserted two pieces of iron, thickest at

the bottom, with two rings, and wedged

in with iron. These precautions would

give them a certain purchase to raise the

flones over the foaffold with the rope that

' passed through the rings to suspend them

by means of the pulley, and afterwards

e gently let them down on the esplanade or

platform, whence they might be removed,

without much trouble, to their place of

destination.

. What I have faid, concern · Having filled the first passage, they must

e next close up that of letter N, the extent

of which was a hundred and eighteen feet,

· leading, as I have faid, into the chamber O.

where the corple of the queen had pro-

bably been deposited. This was not a dif-

ficult work. They next collected as many

frones as were necessary to cover the entrance

of this passage to fill up the groove L, and

the triangular platform of ten feet LM,

which was before noticed, at the entrance of

the gallery. A hundred feet more of these

flones were wanting to fill up the passage

'H, through which the pyramid was forced,

and which, for the space of eighty feet in · length, length, is totally disfigured. A hundred and twenty-four feet of stone more was wanting for the passage P beneath the gallery, and between the banks and over which the scassfolding was raised. It then was perfectly closed, except that the last stone found some impediment from an elevation of four or sive singers, which, as I have already remarked, is at the end of this passage, and which has not been omitted in the plate.

What I have faid, concerning these pasfages, their filling up, and the intention of the gallery, may appear new and bold enough to occasion some critic to treat it 'as chimerical, or at least conjectural; nor do I require implicit faith; but the honour of having imagined a very probable system cannot be denied me, capable of explaining, at a glance, wonders which have hitherto been unknown. I will go farther, and dare affirm, whoever will pay attention to my observations, their connection and consequences, will find it impossible to deny that my conjectures, if so the critic shall please to call them, are to well founded that they must be thought truths. For my own part, s after

after all the refearches, all the reflections I have made on the natural structure of the pyramid, I boldly declare it is impossible thefe things could be otherwise than as I have described them. I see immediately that, the pyramid finished, that is to fay, the grooves made, and the gallery roofed, no flone could have been brought into this gallery · large enough to close the passages from within to without; and that the fole care of the architect was to prevent those from being extracted which he had brought hither to that it up in, what he supposed, an invifible manner. I perceive his defign in · making the long groove L at the bottom of the gallery, and that it could only have been eut for bringing the stones which were afterwards to fill up the inner paffage, and by the Roppage I find at the upper end of this groove, judge that it must itself have been also filled up with stones, after the paffage had been absolutely stopped. I am 'confirmed in the double use of this groove, by its exquisite polish; its length, I observe, 'is proportionate to that of the inner passage: · I fee this paffage is still in part stopped, that is to fay, at its entrance F; I also see the 4

they have not penetrated into the pyramid through this true passage, but, on the contrary, have been obliged to make a false one, through which, again coming to the fides of the paffage, they have more eafily attacked the stones that filled it: I likewise find it s injured through its whole extent, which informs me recourse was obliged to be had to violence to open it; and further conclude, it is thus injured, as far as where the gallery begins, because the stones it contained were broken in this passage; and that, for the fpace of a hundred and twenty-four feet, there were, in the groove, and behind these flones, four hundred and fifteen feet of other flones, ready continually to succeed those which should have been removed from the passage, and to fill the void they would have eleft. I even suspect those who forced the pyramid were acquainted with this fucecession of stones, thut in by the groove; had they not, they would have been satisfied, no doubt, with breaking the stones which filled the passage in the opening they had forced. This would have been the easiest 'mode, and, if they took another, it was from the knowledge they had of the stones which beams. " were

were ready to glide through the groove into

I have already hinted, that there may be other passages, which still remain closed, in the pyramid, and it is not, perhaps, without reason they have been searched for; but, unfortunately, their fearch was misguided. when directed to the bottom of the two chambers. If there should be another passage beside ' those already known, they ought, past contradiction, to feek it between the two chambers; nor can its entrance be any where but toward the middle of the groove; I must also mention that the short projecting lines, at eletter M, denote certain holes, purposely made at the building of the pyramid. These holes were to serve as steps to those who, from the passage N, leading to the first chamber, wished to ascend the groove, which, as I have faid, is interrupted, at this part, or descend, the same way, into whis passage I have said that a man might pals from the bottom of the groove, upright, on the scaffold. No doubt, on both fides of the gallery, and, from the top to the bottom, under the fcaffold, there were ropes, at different distances, fixed to beams, bas to

beams, in order that those who wished to

' ascend or descend through the groove might

without flipping. They first served the work-

'men in constructing the gallery, and closing

the passages, and, afterwards, those who

' visited the chambers, those who transported

the corples of the king and queen, and,

finally, the persons who ascended the royal

chamber, with the coffin of the king,

there to remain and die only wheels should

Thus, there is no doubt but that, by means of stones placed on the scaffold, all these passages, made within the pyramid, were filled being north and tach norman

Having finished their work, nothing remained but for the men, who were within, to get out, unless we suppose they began by breaking the scaffold, and the wood it was made of, and that they used the same means to get these materials out of the pyramid, as they did to get out themselves. The aperture by which they effected this was the well I have mentioned, which is on the right hand, at entering the gallery, and which occupies a part of the bottom of the benching, rising two seet in the wall: it is oval,

This well descends towards the bottom of the pyramid by a line almost perpendicular, but a little inclining, fomething in the form of the Hebrew letter Lamed, as ' may be seen in the plate. About fixty feet from the mouth, is a square window, through which there is an entrance to a ' fmall grotto, cut in the mountain, which is ' not here of folid stone, but a kind of gravel, the particles of which strongly adhere. This grotto extends from East to West, and may be above fifteen feet long, after which is another groove, dug likewise in the rock, very steep, approaching the perpendicular. It is two feet four inches wide, two feet and a half high, and descends through a space of a hundred and twenty-three feet, after which nothing is found but fands and stones, either purposely thrown there, or fallen of themselves. I am convinced this passage was only defigned as a retreat for workmen who were at the building of the pyramid; its declivity, winding route, smallness, and depth, are certain proofs the coming from this well, which could not have been effected ed

ed till after many turnings, perhaps, not till after having mounted back towards its mouth, could only, I have no doubt, have been through a passage, over which was a row of stones, which they had found the art to ftop, and which fell down into this passage, by the means of some spring set in motion by them, when all the workmen had retired, and thus closed it up for ever. We do not find this aperture has ever been attempted; whether it be that they were igno-' rant of it, or that its smallness impeded the workmen. The pyramid has only been attacked by the royal route, through which the corple of the king must have been taken, and all the people, living or dead, to be buried with him. By the fame route the attendant mourners must have entered the pyramid, and have come out, after having paid their last duties to the mo-' narch, and deposited his corpse in the fepulchre himself had chosen.

Nor must it be supposed that all those who worked at this vast edifice were acquainted with its interior structure, nor even that such knowledge was to be obtained by entering the pyramid after it was finished.

E2700

"finified: This was a focret known only to the architects who had planned this proud edifice, or at leaft, to a finall number of felect perfors, who worked under their direction, to form the passages I have just: mentioned, in this my description of the pyramid. It is, moreover, most probable these workmen were not venal, or capable, from any motive whatever, of betraying fuch a feeret : they were, no doubt, persons chosen from those most worthy, and most attached to the monarch, among the various workmen in his fervice, and on whole seak probity, gratitude and religion, all dependence might be placed. I can readily believe, to enfure their faith, the prince named them himself, before his death, and appointed a commodious, peaceable, and honourable retreat for them, in the temples, (d) enriched by the gifts of thefe. · hvereigns, which could not feil to socompany these kind of buildings, and which, had the bell Greek and Roman works trans-

I .Jours

pyramids, which probably were temples where offerings were made for the kings whole bodies repoled in these superb manifoleums.

"laccompany themily had prive attended to A

Such with opinion of Maillet concerning the winds of the gland pyramic, and twice establishing its with his book in any hand. I bould not bliv admire the juttiers of his remarks. Fits theads of clotting the pallinger of me appear probable, and they have certainly been empriod as he has deferibed.

Some Arabian authors presend, about the beginning of the eighteenth century, avarice exerted the Caliph Mahmood to violate this ancient mondment, thinking to find treatures here, but his hopes were deceived. Some idols of gold, belide the mummy of the king, were the fole feward of many years labour, and excellive expences. Other oriental wiltors attribute this enterprise to the famous Caliph Aaroun el Rashid, who lived in the time of Charlemagne, to whom he fent a water-clock, the first feen in Frances This Caliph, who canfed science to flourish, and had the best Greek and Roman works translated into Arabic, withing to know the interior of this altonishing edifice, had it opened. Be these opinions as they may, we cannot doubt but the opening of the pyramid VOL. T. II R.

was effected under the government of the Arabs.

It is also an incontestible fact that it was a maufoleum for one of the Reyntian Pharachy. The tombs (cattered over the plain at the end of which it is built, the farcophagus of the great chamber, the niche of the chamber beneath, the testimony of Herodotus, Strabo, and the Arabian historians, all prove its truth. I know that M. Paw (e), who in his closet fees better than travellers, teaches them this pyramid was the sepulche of Ofices, but he is single in an opinion which contradicts facts, and history. Rendering justice to the knowledge of this learned gentleman, I cannot avoid, in continuing these letters, to remove fome errors, established by him, relative to the dietetic lystem of the Egyptians, and the felf with the most scrapulous attention onnecess, se of thonor she want lover the descriptions given of these ancient monuments, I own, I found it impossible to form lutters Red bent fur to be paints as Chinas, page 50. incerthisted The darkness of to many diffe interior officions concealed the truth, and the Triore I read the left knew; but, guided by careflection by the las energon of the pyramid, LEVT-RR Basw

was effected under the government of the

Arabs.

It is allo an incontentible fact that it was appropriately of the same of the great chamber, the niche of the chamber, the niche of the chamber beneath, the tellhulum of the chamber of the seat chamber, the niche of the chamber beneath, the tellhulum of Herodotus, Strabo, and the Arabian bullenges all arous its truth

and the Arabian historians, all prove its truth. I know that M. Paw who is his dealers of the AVE collected the enquires of the fees better than travellers, teaches them this ancient and most of the enquirement was the fepulches of China a but in the content of the collected that the content of the collected that the content of the collected that the collected tha byramid, have added such observations as my own visits have supplied, and hope, Sir, these will, together, give you a latisfactory idea, onne and make the trouble of learching numerous volumes, which, to read and reflect on, would but augment your doubts lo long as you hall not come and examine them yourfelf with the most scrupulous attention, unnecessary. ad After meditating lover the descriptions given of these ancient monuments, I own, I found it impossible to form oppy fixed judgment, and remained in painful incertitude. The darkness of so many different opinions concealed the truth, and the more I read, the less I knew; but, guided by reflection, while at the foot of the pyramid, R 2 and. and afterwards, in its deep interior gloom, on its high top, I have believed I discovered the truth I sought. May it have guided my pen, and given conviction to your mind, for even in matters of science doubt is painful.

Herodotus (f) informs us the expense of building this pyramid, in vegetables, only, to feed the workmen, was written in Egyptian characters, on its marble. Their recomoval of the coating has destroyed these hieroglyphics, but did they remain as they do in a hundred other parts of Egypt they would afford no pictures of thought. They are mute and insensible as the stone on which they are engraved. And must the language which would teach us the history of ancient Egypt, and cast a ray of light over the darkness that envelops the first ages of the earth, be buried with the priests by whom it was invented!

(f) Egyptian characters are cut on the marble of the pyramid, describing how much it cost to feed the workmen, only in onions and other vegetables. The priest who interpreted these hieroglyphics to me said it amounted to 1000 calents. Herodorus Edwarpe to 1000 calents.

The fun will appear chimerical to those who shall calculate in their closets, but he is not assonished at it who has seen this mountain built of rocks. This passage proves, too, that vegetables, in the most distant ages, were, as at present, the chief food of the Egyptians.

Relations we should continue our voyage, SMINITHINING SUBJECT COM Schap Count There reft, beer proceeded to the Tepond pyramid, which them sas highes the firm 8 the wifeins it is the Diodorus Sicolus the fame, but adds that the bate of the fotond is less 789, and atecibines ats confination the Cephien, Brother and affecting to Champie, who built the one I have already described. The coating dishis pyramid is descroyed in many places, But the factures made by force, prove that men, father than time, have emerged the hab rock a girth reet pure the harrie chare Book deir wongent, and wald the inhone alter guit to detach Penlups those who have at temples the state of the state epened by the length; dirichly, and expence of the work, con reside themselves with the rying of the outside marble: dashairg add driv Andadder these two pyraorids, of the thirds,

which appears very small, comparatively, yet is about three hundred feat square (i), and was built by Miceriaus, who wishing to equal the fame of his father Cheminis,

Rhodods

on a boly of the state of the s

⁽b) Strabo, lib, the state of the and a service (1)

would coat at with marbled from the Thebald (i), which is beautiful, spotted with blacks of white grain, exceedingly hard, and capable drug perfect politic. In the since when the work was only half blone or The finences of the marble has led the Arabic constrainte offind Some Hones Hall reliain; and fragments round the bare The Hame of Michiaus was inferibed on the northern had ply, but, like the hieroglyphics of the grand pyranid, has been removed with the estating ind suom Many fables are related by historias of this pyramidaid Some lay to with Builte by is famous courtezair, from the gaine file made by her lovers. Others that an eagle carrying off the Thall Tipper of the Beauteous Ring dope ! came to Nauchanis! lette fall at Went phis, and abar the King, charmed bigues beauteous form, withed to hatow whom its belonged to, became afterwards in love with Pliny pretends (m) the body of Amalis was 199 The Huaries of This And the bie air ab mid upper end of Depot vin the mountain arthel foot of which far ene was built. There are three forts, the first a perfect black, the fecond only spotted and the third mixed with red! A The granite of the two first was used in the building of tombs, the other for columns and shelifts

(k) Diodorus Siculus, lib. 1. fest 2014 (m)

Rhodope,

Abadopt, smarried beautiful, the tied withblatety

The Arabs who love the maryellous have eagerly credited these childish tales, and called the pyramid Heramelbent ... The and cient edifice of the maiden as Round here are the mine of three other pyramide (4), built faus Diodorus, as manfoleums for the wives of the Kings who built the great phes are and bappoint the ferond, eastward, is the enough mous fphing, the whole body of which as it have find in buried in the fand, the top of the back only to be feen which is above a bundred feet lango and is of a fingle flones making port of the rock on which the py cantids areft ... Its head rifes about feven and twenty feet above the fand Mahomet has tabght the Arabs to hold all images of men or spimels in detestation and they have distigored the face with their arrows and langes Pliny pretends (m) the body of Amalis was deposited within this sphinx ... Many authors believe the well of the grand pyramid end-There are three forts, the first a perfect boyin Salah Eddin demolifhed them, and built the walls of Grand Carro and the callle on mount Mokattam,

with the company the other for columns and the his building of comps, the other for columns and with the many building of comps, the other for columns and the columns of t

Rhodope

R 4

ed

self detred and that take paleting come batter to gerrain timetant quadeliverstheir in acidiquilles thele are meen doojoelines full dolla silliw A Marka Rawallikaty and the forphine con the shorty of which is shelf a stiggistish show him before images of the Deity in the they dependent anien bestraphirodites and hick opinion incomis net to men more despination that admiching the fepulahrand Ofinialin The Nile intotelles, energiewis is oft immedates of yet menden the Agns Heirlando Virgo pionide this sphinish was a her raglyphiciweltichitold the people with this methoin per third event in the unique year thousand bappins milich is the treatogethistigue les Hery contricipe and wind tands the fore will income mankablo baildingsain denchat to Gy setime hitants and be fuched figure we fuch tay time; the pine continue of an effect of the property them fertile is the While mounte dimiribgethe spiracles of ancient Egyptilizade M. Middle fort field soyali in this parted at i Alexandrian pour seems the phinx, through which the priefts delivered their oracles, as a proof of this opinion, but this cavity is phy five feet deep, and neither communicates with the

prouch, nor the body of the fiphings and nitw nietius (a) Rech. Phil. fur les Egyptiens is les Chinois.

ployed

ployed deswingstown few min hambet white gelloping with their lances and approaching within pistol that, wither to attack or force pioney from using Worlbad in blee and piltole, and were very able to repel them y but on the sixt sipe so whole tribe bould have fale len upon uses We, therefore bade our cheins focale-to-sand-tell, abein me wareabile guesti; and they had taken us under their protection. This difarmed them, at once, for they highly respect the nights of a hospitality in Alighting; they offered to recompany itis wherever we pleased ashut patchety do not like to be single bled for nothing they politely alked forth gratuity is which twe bestowed gos This illight praising having ratifical places life and where faring half whifpen, det us oldt the faire. Away shey went, and Lafollowings parted the foogdi princid, and Ropped with them at the door of a group out in the rocky and which pulling loff the inches in lay white I was the only European who imitated them. The grotto was spacious, clean, hand-fome, and very cool. At one end was a niche fix feet high, before which an old curtain, with many holes, tweethewn! d'The Arabs came near, with reverence; each played kneeled

linestedoning oprandanti kiffedi wefood arhichi from frome left in the best and the free bear bear being comes to pprosohed, and faid, Ocholy faint frifees smestrby lane ov My controlitioned was cakedrabnan infirity danda sjudging byany promunciationy i was not an Anabythe altiworedw furlily-Roub anuform well out cave one ido ab Hearing this, the Muffilman dooked finishflycaol megiand I, whatily went away blimppy that days imprudence thad sho gworfe sconfeso quantes, land promiting mevels more to chold convertation with an Egyptiant State miliw mist Thefer men strenivagabondes whose affect that indifference to the riches of this world sud, living on talme, rare guilty of a tholasad extravagancies which makes themprals for inspired. They agodinately maked through the cities, and, violating deceney, blush not, publickly, to commit actions which the reft of mankind conceal in the darkness of night; on the veil of mystery (p). I cannot describe I was the only European who imitated

a scene of this nature, which passed in the open city, between a Santon and a woman. The people respectfully surrounded the momentary man and wife, and any European, who should have ventured to joke at the fight, would have risqued being stoned.

the weneration in which the populace shold thefe fhamelefs cynics p women especially who naturally, himidrand moderny forget, rin their behalfitathat referve and puttency weight tals waysyth accompany their fex, and that men, who with efficiency gratify every appointed furlily - Road and Sagler dout of viron dan of - Satisfied with afeeing and twondering ... returned to Gizagowhera we Iremsined fome days examining the environa bur Wei met, tons our route, feveral Chacala, (on Jackalls) which ran, with great speed, towards the mountains These favin coloured animals, the fixed of a dogio have to dragging tail, and an pointed muzzle of They live on bunting and the fifth of the lakes of The Arabs call them dibe and they are the welves of AfricaT beriod the cities, and, violating decency, bluff not, publickly, to commit actions which the rest of mankind conceal in the darkness of night, or the veil of mystery (b). I cannot describe

⁽p) A friend from Tunis has written to me concerning a scene of this nature, which passed in the open city, between a Santon and a woman. The people respectfully surrounded the momentary man and wife, and any European, who should have ventured to joke at the fight, would have risqued being stoned.

and ship where the service police of the ship and the boats with particulars concerning and the boats with particulars concerning and down the river; with particulars concerning and manufactory and making of Jal-ammoniacs and the souls and service particulars concerning and manufactory and making of Jal-ammoniacs and the souls and service particulars concerning and manufactory and making of Jal-ammoniacs and the souls and service and making of Jal-ammoniacs and the service and service and making of Jal-ammoniacs and the service and service

eer routeredenamingenal (projectional up within 1969; 1100 greatered in walden weather.

place, governed by a kiachef, and owes its origin to the governors of the Caliphs, who chose Fostat for their place of residence. The ancients, who have exactly described the environs of the pyramids odo not mention Giza, which was founded by the Arabs, as its name shews. (q) Shaw was deceived in placing it on

(9) Giza, in Arabic, fignifies angle or end; and this name was given it because, when Mass Fostat sourished.

Giza, one of its suburbs, was separated from it only by the Nile. Macrizi, speaking of the descent of Louis IX. and mentioning one end of Damietta, says, The Giza of Damietta.

tions or flits, through which the necks, two

the ancient frite of Memphis , for, believ that there are meither ruins mor antiquities here, thei Greeks, i Romanspo and especially a the Arabs, have to positively marked the situation of the ancient metropolis of Egypt that reading them attentively, it is impossible to be mistaken, as I think I shall prove in my next lefter sono status sono dition 2 43000 and hands

Giza is furrounded by immense plains, profusely covered with vegetables, flax, and corn. Here they grow the carthamus, improperly, by the people of Provence, called fafranon, the flower of which they buy and fend to Marfeilles, to use in dying the cloths of Languedoc. The Egyptians, wanting? wood, make fuel of the stalks the bod mo cludes a grain, from which they extract zenbelow, fost oil, of an insipid tafte, but eaten by the common people, though feldom uled by the rich. but in the Illuminations to frethews. (9) Shaw was deceived in the applications in the property in the state of th

This finall town has a manufactory of falammoniacy finto the laboratory of which I feveral times went; and, notwithstanding the horribly infectious finoke, observed the procedure. Imagine arches with parallel apertures or flits, through which the necks, two bushoody

inches

industions; the equation districter, of world glass-boutles, dare pur, which sefore they are skir avide diwerbeace between Pands intentices between each bottle and alle flopped with clay yithersbottles unte domining within the arch, and the necks are lupported by walls, the neck only being exposed to the action of the open air sthele bottles are full of foot, wept from the chimnies of the commontipeople; whose constant fuel is dinglist animals died with the functions and mixed with chopped Arawin A fire is lighted underneath the mouths of the bottles, of the fame flibflances, and is kept burning three days and nights. bThe voortles are withopped, and the exhaling vapour of the heared foot infentibly attaches itself to the mecks where it condenies, crystallizes, and forms a bright and folid body dabout two inches thick and He process over other bottle is broken the affect cleared, and the cake of fal-ammoniac, fuch as fent to Europe, obtained, first taking from its underfide ablack eruft; which has fot acquired the degree of perfection necessary; but this cruft, being put mito other bottles, yields, on a fecond process, the most esteemed and most perfect fal-ammoniat. MAbout two their thousand

shouland quintels, are annually fishricated in the differentiation antifactories of the country is ig is in article of commerce between the Egyptians and Europeans, being which by pewterers, ped with shirty dans erobauon shirt beg of Grand de et achanne of Grand Cairo have a country houselat Giza, and its small garden, with orange, lemon, and date-tiess, fituated on the bank of the Nile ov The beautiful ifland 10ft Raoudas and vita iodoriferous bowers, the mekias against which the waves best with violence, Old Cairo, and site fitrounding gardens, with a multitude of boats which incessantly neross the niver arensen from its evindows are extensive dand verdant profpects variegated with houses, mosques, or more diftant minarets charm the eye, inducing the frestators to sit hours contemplating these smiling objects, while the fresh ain, which follows the course of the Nile in currents, comes, reanimates the lenfes, and gives the foul that energy which is necessary to tafte the beautiful and the fublished To Giza therefore, fatigued by business, on suffocated by the heats of Grand Cairo, reverberated from the burning lands of Mokattam, the French come to repole and Gigasthey recover their thouland

their health, and, in pure and epoling airi breather life in the aromatic exchalations of plante and flowers and from the albitra as at tions and Europeaus, being wied be powterers.

I have the honour to be &co. Her pleased which hopes and the Ar white and but the market the forest of the fact that the fact is of the week of the same of there out and Duecommissioning get to apply, pulses, and takes in the mind of the world of the property

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things and other placing it has been about the footh. It it act aftending that the line

comment promoted said the less toward for T.

3.00 . A. Vor. Mouth

decir besieb, and, in pure and spoling airty breather life in the aromatic extendations at a line to T. T. E. T. T. I. i. i. i. i. i. i.

On the true stuation of Memphis, confirmed by Herodotus, Strabo, Pliny, and the Arabian authors; modern travellers refuted. The city, as it was in the time of Herodotus and Diodorus Siculus; its temples, palaces, and lakes described. Quotation from Abulfeda, proving its total destruction by Amrou; ruins still seen near the village Menf, the poor remains of the ancient Memphis.

wist hos .noinTo M. L. M.

dordy to eniscipate he wisher old Grand Cairo.

IT is time, Sir, to speak of Memphis, and examine the opinions of writers concerning this celebrated city, which are very opposite; some pretending it stood where Giza now stands, and others placing it sive leagues farther south. Is it not assonishing that the scite of the ancient metropolis of Egypt, a city near seven leagues in circumference, (r) containing magnificent temples and palaces which art laboured to render eternal,

VOL. I.

⁽r) A hundred and fifty fladia. Diodorus Siculus, lib. 1. fect. 2.

should at present be a subject of dispute among the learned? Thus, in their turn, are all the proud monuments of man buried in the dust. History, I hope, will teach us to find the remaining vestiges of Memphis, and dissipate that darkness in which erudition has itself endeavoured to hide them. no took and

"Queen Semiramis built the caftle of

" Grand Cairo (s), into which the put a

" numerous garrison of Babylonians to be

" a check upon Memphis, which flood

's facing it, west of the Nile, and prevent

"rebellion in the capital" (t). inamphui

Shaw is of the same opinion, and says, the ancient Memphis, the remains of which are now buried and covered over, stood opposite Cairo, on the bank of the Nile next Lybia, at the village of Giza (u).

Pococke, an exact observer, comes afterward, and, inspecting the place, and reading the ancients, is of a contrary opinion (x). War is declared among the learned

⁽s) I think I have removed this first error in Letter VII. and proved it was built by Salah Eddin.

⁽t) Father Sicard, Lettres Edifiantes, p. 471.

⁽u) Shaw's Travels, vol. ii. chap. 4. in U bolk (e)

⁽a) Pococke's Travels, book i. chap. 5.

of England, and the authors of the Mod dern Universal History have pronounced the

The city of Melt (the Memphis of the old "geographers) was fituated on the western, of Lybian, bank of the Nile, and occupied "the spot on which the village of Geeza at present stands. This we learn from Dr. Shaw, whose geographical observations re-"lating to Egypt and Arabia Petrasa are more "curious, and superior in point of truth, at e least probability, learning, accuracy, and " judgment, to those of any other modern. "traveller ... noid In fine, his book will stand "Its ground when all the efforts of envy and "malice have been Then; when tome of those others, written in instation of it, of with an "defign to depreciate it, will be buried in "oblivion, or, at least, meet with that con-"tempt which they to juffly deferve." (9) Here, Sir, is as very doginatic decilion

against all travellers who shall dare to cont tradict Dr. Shaw. If the authors of the Universal History thought they had no oc-

(1) Father Sicard, Lettres Edifiantes, p. 471.

⁽y) Mod. Univ. Hift. vol. i. page 438, edit. 1759.)

leaft, to have looked over the Arabian to read the ancients, they ought, at a rock the ancients, they ought, at the property of the Arabian leaft, to have looked over the Arabian placed, the present of presents are build over the present of the p

Memphis is fituated in the narrowelt more part of Egypt, on the western border of the Nile, the waters of which form a lake on the north and west of the ci-

" ty" (z).

This is a vague description; for, to determine the lituation of Memphis, it is necessary the lake still should subsist, and that the valley of Egypt should be measured to find its narrowest part. Strabo (a) has been more circumstantial. From the castle of Babylon (b) the pyramids near Memphis are seen, on the other side of the Nile.—

"Babylon (b) the pyramids near Memphis are seen, on the other side of the Nile.—

"Lakes, in part, surround the city; the buildings which were the palaces of the kings are in ruins, and extend from the mountain to the plain where the city is built, as far as the borders of the lake, and about the lake.

(a) Strabo, lib. 17.

tarefore.

" shaded

tween the pyramidesquata dividoonsHt(x) it.

⁽b) I marked its feite in Letter VIII mily

"fhaded by a facred grove. Forty stadia
"from Memphis is a rocky hill, where a

great number of pyramids are built."

That Strabo faw the pyramids from the castle of Babylon is not wonderful, fince they are seen from the fortress which over-looks Grand Cairo, and much farther. He adds, they were near Memphis, on a hill, distant only forty stadia, that is to say five miles; which will not agree with Giza, that being three leagues from the nearest pyramids, and fix from those of Saccara. But, I will not dwell on this, because Pliny removes the difficulty past doubt (c).

The three grand pyramids, feen by the watermen from all parts, stand on a barren and rocky hill, between Memphis " and the Delta, one league from the Nile, two from Memphis, and near the village

of Bufire. "And the same of the contested spot, and fully displays truth: for he fays the pyramid stood between Memphis and the Delta, and Giza, certainly, stands between the pyramids and the Delta; it, out (a) Strabo, lib

⁽c) Plin. Hift. Nat. 11b. 36? capt 12: diem I (4) es shaded S 3 SUL A

therefore, is impeffible Memphis could be fituated at Giga. Or, which is the fame thing, Memphis, according to Pliny, was two leagues fouth of the pyramids, mand Giza is three leagues north; wherefore, it cannot have been built where Memphis flood; nor can Pliny be faid to be mifmken, for his description is precise. Busiris fill subfits, now Boufir, not far from the pyramids, which are a league from the river. The small town Menf, the ancient Memphis, is about two leagues fouth of these monuments. The authors of the Universal History would have been cautious of implicitly believing, and blindly adopting. an erroneous opinion had they read this passage; especially as it had been opposed by one of their own countrymen, (d) who was judicious, and well informed; they would not have fulminated an anathema against all who doubted in Dr. Shaw, I, like them, render all homage to his merits, his book abounds in valuable know ledge; but, as errors and truths are blended. I cannot avoid removing the first, whenever opportunity offers dw part who are by digging in any part who are the company of the company of

⁽d) Pococke's Travels.

d Alking of Egypt, having turned the course of the Nile, (e) which diffused Itself over the fands of Lybia and the Delra being formed from the mud (f) of its waters, seanals were cue to drain Lower Egypt: The monarchs who till theny had refided at Thebes tremoved nearer the mouth of the river, to enjoy an dir more temperate, and he more ready to defend the entrance of their empire. They founded the city of Memphis, and endeavoured to render it equal to the ancient capital, decorating it with many temples, 7g). among which that of Vulcan drew the attention of travellers ? its grandeur, fumptuoufners, and rich ornaments, each excited admiration. Another temple, beside the barren passage; respecially, as it had been apposed

Thy one of their own countrices I can vol

from the fands and mire of the Nile, no longer substitted, and though we should reject the opinions of Herodotus, Strabo, Diodorus, Pliny, etc. who affirm the fact, we could not but admit it; having considered this fine part of Egypt. Throughout the Dalta, no other stones are found than those brought for the building of temples, and grand edifices; nor is any thing to be obtained but the black mud of the Nile, mixed with sand, by digging in any part whatever twenty seet deep.

(g) Strabo, lib. 17.

A king

plain, was dedicated to Serapis; she principal entrance to which was a walk aphynix avenue. Egypt has always obcen oppressed with fandisd which, accumulating here thad half buried fome of the fihring and others apite the necks in the time of Strabon at prefent they have disppeared. To prevent this disafter, they built a long mound, fhe on the South fidge which also ferved as a barrier against the inundations of the river and the attacks and enemics. The palace of the kings, and a fortrefs built on the mountain, defended vit lon the West, the Nile on the East and to the North were lakes, beyond which was the plain of mummies, and the causeway which led from Bufiris to the great pyramids. Thus fituated. Memphis commanded the valley of Egypt, and communicated by canals with the lakes Meris, and Marcotis. Its citizens might traverse the kingdom in boats, and it therefore, became the centre of wealth, commence, and arts, where altronomy and geometry, invented by the Egyptians, Hourished (i) Hither the Greeks came to obtain knowledge, which carrying into their own couns

Persepolis (k). Is the an quindle suisbord tages (i) Strabo, lib. 17. (k) Quintus Curtius,

try ithey bridghis or perfection bib Phietes ainly her hundred gates hay forgottend and binathe hill mead Memphis posenthose prouds mang ments those superb municipleums, which, aloney flevered with believe world with the sandrewe bravel destructive times and men still more destriction tivel The iglory of Memphis endured for ages, titli Cambyleo came, but the ghead of a formidable urany and daid Bgypt defblate iby this eferctions conqueror were here temples and famous edifices deftroyed This was his endeavoub, as it was to extinguish the feiences, which a people, furrounded by waters and delerts, whad, in wheir fertile walley, first inventa did With their optivileges the opticite fold a part of the knowledge that was uttached to themula Memphis, however, disfigured as it was, preferved such remains of magnificence. thating dillitwas the first bity of the world! and flruggled, for more than two centeries; to thake off the odious yoke of the Perfians? Adexander, to whom the yielded, revenged her wrongs, and, abandoning himfelf to guilty phrenzy, irefewed the horrors Cambyfes had committed, nadt Thebes and Memphis, son Persepolis (k). Is there not justice for empires

(1) Quintus Curtius, 77 dil codette (1)

appropried with the beatties of Bgypt, which antiquities of which he vifredy fre founded to city there in his own pairie, feveral ages before the Christian era, which the Prolemies, this face flors, wembellished, endeavouring to join the majestic architectore of Egypt to the elegance of Greecel The Pharos role the admiration of the world : Alexandria became another Rome. and arts and fciences, beneath the eye of the fovereign, spread their brilliancy afar. Commerce at tracted wealth and abundance hither, and to the new capital Memphis daily faw its inhabitants remove. (1) Under Augustus the latter was still a great city, populous, and full of foreigners, yet was but then the second in Egyptus Six hundred years after it was conquered by the Arabs, after a long and bloody fiege, who took it by affault, and, according to Abulfeda. effected its destruction. I will cite the passage from this learned historian, because it proves the scite Pliny gave Memphis, and deffroys the error of various writers, (m) who pretend that the governors, under the emperors of Constantinople, resided

Grand Cing of the specific of the Male of the Mark of the Male (I) Strabo, lib. 17: And the specific of the Maillet—Father Sicard. (m) Maillet—Father Sicard.

Egypte In my eighth letter I thought I had domanstrated this city did not then crist; what follows is an additional proof: "Menf "(n), (that is to fay Memphis) is the ancient Mass (a) of Egypt, standing on the westti tern shore of the Nile. Amou, son of the Nile. Amou, son of the Nile, and, by order of Omar, son of Kettab, this and, by order of Omar, son the opposite shore. There are remarkable ruins at "Menf, the remains of its ancient splendor,

(n) "Menf hia mast elcadima oua hia an garbi el Nil.
"Oua lemma fatahha Amrou ebn el Aas kharabha oua
bena el Fostat men elbar elakhar el sharki be amt
"Onar ebn el Khattabi. Oua be mens atar cadimo
"Azima madsalo men elsakhour oua el menhouta el ma"soura. Oua alaiha dehan akhdar, oua khairo baki
"ila zamanna, hada lam ietkhaier men el shams oua
khairha ala toul hada eldemma. Oua mens men mast

instroffed bonnied Abulfeda, Defeription of Bypptio

Arabs always bestow the name of Mass on the capital of Egypt. Memphis bore it till ruined by Amrou; Fostat next, and preserved it, till Schaouar set fire to the city to prevent its being taken by the French; since when Grand Cairo is called Mass, and Fostat Mass elatic, the ancient Mass, or the ancient capital.

, apprilip

" which

"foulpture and naturing of which excite wone of der, and whose colours neither sun not air they yet effected when sie a small day's in journey from Grand Cairo." is and a stood

This agrees with Pliny's description, and with what yet remains of The village of Ment a feeble relidue of san immente city, is fix leagues from Grand Cairo, on the western fide of the Nile, precifely where the learned naturalist marks its scite; it being four leagues from Grand Cairo to the pyramids, and two from thence to Menf. The ruins round it confirm the testimony of Abulfeda, and the lakes (a) mentioned by Herodotus and Strabo have not entirely disappeared, one being near Saccara, with a grove of Acacia on the west of Menf, the other precisely North, which, during the inundation, extends to the causeway thrown up in the marth which feparates the Nile from the grand pyramids, and was made to facilitate the conveyance of the marble for the passages and coating of these

edifices.

Memphis, are proof demonstrative it was situated at Mens, and not at Giza, for there is no trace of any lake within three leagues of the latter.

edification. The mountaints with bridges the control of the water of the control of the control

has There Sir, were the lakes which the Wiemphians were obliged to cross when they done veyed their dead to the platte where the kings had failed their mauloleums ? Asthere were temples here (1) where expiatory Tacril fices were offered for the deceased, has these filent abodes werelinviolable, and the implous man who thould have dared profane and troilble their profound peace would have been punished with death, all the Egyptians withed here as be entombed ? Each faining tonk, th the rock covered with lands, a gloomy habitation, where, in their turn; father and fon were deponted with religious plety, little uppolity that a time mould come when therenlightened people of Europe would have their torn from their reputchies, or that their bodies, buffed and preserved with to much cale,

edifices.

These takes, which squared quitobored by rear

whole office was to immolate expisiory victime, and pray for the dead.

would become an object of vile traffic. The Greeks, who have been prefent (s) at the judgments the Egyptians, alone, of all the earth's inhabitants, pronounced upon the dead, and who have feen the places where their bodies were brought in boats, on paying a small fee, have invented the fable of Charon and Hell. The beauty of the plains beyond that vast solitude, the fands, the canals, by which they were watered, preserving their eternally verdant banks, gave them the idea of the Styx, the Lethe, and the Elyfian fields, which their fruitful and fine imaginations embellished with all the beauties of poetry. The fable gained credit among the populace, and became an article of pagan religion.

Such, Sir, are the reflections which attentively reading the ancients, and seeing the environs of the pyramids, have produced: may they be thought worthy your attention, and possess the merit of truth.

ings which as the honour to be &colonly soni

Diod. Sic. p. 13. Ed. Hen. Steph. 1559:

my (fympathetic Sheart repays.

⁽¹⁾ Ορφία γαρ (φασι) εις αιγυνίου παραβάλουτα ή μετασχοθά της πελετης η των δρουρσιακών μυς πρεων μεθαλαβείν.

would become an object of vile traffic. The Greeks, will know kes greeks at the judgments the Egyptians; alone, of all the

From Boulac to Damietta: that branch of the Nile, its canals, the villages, towns, and antiquities, on the banks, described.

Of the fair of Tanta; the manners of the inhabitants of that part of Egypt; the groves near Semennoud; the chicken ovens at Mansoura, where the French army was descated; and the navigation of the river.

imaginations embelified Mithall the beauties of poetry. The fable gained credit among the 1875 history and became an article of pagan,

It is fixteen months fince you received my last letter: during this long interval anxious friendship has often painted the missortunes to which a traveller is exposed, in a barbarous country, and has more than once made you fear for my life. Honoured be the feelings which to me are so precious, and which my sympathetic heart repays. But calmyour apprehensions; travellers have a deity who exacts prudence and fortitude, and when

when religiously obeyed. Shelters them from danger. Coafe then your alarms, and attribute my filence to my continual journeys and labours, Xet, Sir, forget not to write to me. The worth of a letter is here fully known; it is opened with transport, read with avidity, and the day of its reception is a day of festivity. Beneath this burning fun. amid these deserts, the want of a friend is powerfully felt; and whatever brings him to memory is most precious. Seldom does a Frenchman find, among Turks and Arabs, a heart that vibrates with his own, and crouding fensations are born and die unpara ticipated. Pity me, therefore, and fend me what, confolation absence can receive, that, while I read characters your hand has traced I may fee, may hear, you; while fancy, fweet enchantress, but illusive, givest me momentary happiness, and strews the thorny road of life with flowers.- Let us continue our correspondence and bas down a mant

During the long filence of which you complain, my time has been employed, Sir, in making two journeys into Lower Egypt, visiting the towns and canals of the eastern branch of the Nile, and living a year at Damietta. Dunieus to acquire more perfectly the Arabic ander poken in Syria. A thouland wines have I wandered over the delicious environs of this city, hot yet fatisfied with contemplating the heauties of nature, with beholding the happy picture of plenty. I have traced the army of Louis IX from its fanding to Manfoora! "Honen Johville has written the history of that expedition, the beginning of which was fo prosperous, and the end fo unhappy; but his narration is obleure, and leaves much to with. The curious accounts of the Arabic authors, and ah impection of the places, have given me the means of elucidating and supplying information which he could not acquire. When I have described my journey, I will endeavour our inflory. Switchilli and shortnessing part of

The fifteenth of February I went for Damietta, in a canjar, that is to fay, a lefs boat than a mach, and built for pleasure. It contained a small, and a larger cabin, which we carpetted; a mat in the form of a canopy, raised on the deck, sheltered us from the fun, while we beheld the country we passed. A tathful

Damietta.

faithful Janissary, who had been in the army of the samous Ali Bey, and an Arabian servant, accompanied me, all well armed, a very necessary precaution on the branch of Damietta, where attacks are continual. The Fellah, (r) who inhabit the shores, come, under savour of darkness, assaid the boats, and, if not resisted, murder the passengers, and seize their effects. A foreigner ought to be well assured of his servants, and the sidelity of the patron or captain, who, often in collusion with the thieves, share the spoil. Taught by experience, I give this advice to suture travellers, having nearly lost my life for not having followed it at first.

The most essential stores are rice and coffee, which we took care to provide. The villages will supply milk, eggs, and poultry; we added some bottles of old wine of Cyprus, which Mahamet Assalama, (s) though a good mussulman, was very happy to partake of occa-

Adrian, which ran tonembandud naidw, naibA

dotus .

fionally,

nied me, was honest, brave, and faithful. I had great obligations to him during my travels, and at my departure he entered into the service of the French conful at Alexandria.

wants and ni need bad odw venline luthitat the hold of the land of

We left Boulac about one o'clock, with a ferene sky, and a heat as temperate as one of our finest days of spring. The inundation had been over about six weeks, and the waters of the Nile insensibly decreased. The current being rather slow, and the north wind blowing, the men were obliged to take to their oars. Wheat and barley began to ripen. The carthamus and dourra, or Indian millet, were a foot high; and the third crop of lucern was springing; cucumbers and water - melons spread their slexible branches over the river banks, and beans were almost ripe. The foliage of the trees was verdant, but differently tinctured, and the orange and citron were in flower. Such was the aspect of the country on the sisteenth of February.

Continuing to row, an hour's passage brought us to the mouth of the canal of Adrian, which ran to that of the Red Sea, traversing the village Kelioub, and passing north of Heliopolis. Two leagues lower is the village Charakhania, below which the Nile separates on each side the Delta. Here Hero-

T 2

fionally,

dotus

city of Cercaforum. (e) D'Anville, following Strabo, describes it on the western shore of the

Nile, at the village El Arkfas.

We are compensated for the slowners with which we advance by the amuling light of boats continually passing and repassing, and a rich country, various in its productions, and abounding in cattle. Arrived at Baten el Bakara, where the Nile divides, we left the branch of Rosetta, and proceeded along that of Damietta. The first elbows castward, the second flows north, in a right line, therefore has the greatest quantity of water, for which reason the most considerable canals are that from it, as I shall shew minemes, and a same

passing the hight opposite Dagoua, a small town where thieves harbour. In the time of Father Sicard, a certain Habib, had ellabbilished his tyranty there, and, making presents to the men in power at Cairo, levied contributions on all passengers. The place is Rill insested with pirates, and last year,

Turks, and myself, was attacked; our arms and behaviour repelled the enemy, who wanted to plunder, not fight; we therefore determined to cast anchor opposite the small village Zouseti; and, while the servant prepared supper, I walked with my Janislary into a neighbouring wood; each with a pair of pistols at the girdle, a large sabre by the side, and a doubled barrelled musket on the shoulder.

a honor betnete ceert placetwor larayed a waft field, formed a femicircular enclosure ; the fides of which reached to the river. About the middle were banks, under sycamore trees, and on the right and left were pomegranate, palm, tamarind, and orange trees, promiscuously planted, which formed various imall groves Among them grew tufts of Hennei, a pleating thrub, with leaves that dye yellow; the cool grafs, variety of trees, intermingling bulbes, orange, and citron flowers, flocks of doves, which fought an afylum under the thick foliage, and abundance of cattle, brought from grazing, altogether formed a most chearful and animated scene, which inspired those sweet sensations of happiness tade eastern store, where Tharakhania now thands.

a large

The Inditused black beastopped to all and black beastopped to black beastopped to be beastopped t

and the women, who were round, immediately retired a The men remained, and, from our drefs, supposing we were the officers of some Bey, who came to exact contributions, had their fears, which we dispelled by telling them we only asked milk, and new laid eggs. They hastened to supply our wants, and reconducted us to the boat, where, notwithstanding, their friendship, we kept sentine all night, each mounting guard in his turn; new thing happened however to trouble our leap posed we have a signal a long numiced, add

obliquely travering the Delta, falls into the

After fleeping some hours, wrapped in my cloak, after the Arabian manner, the noise of the departing watermen awakened me.

The sun role, and, the dew having fallen plentifully, there was a pure and clear sky.

Looking toward the wood, where we had walked over night, I saw flocks of birds, white as snow, perched on the tops of the trees, which the Arabs name oxkeeper, because they always accompany these animals.

They

They are the fize of a pheafant, with red feet, and black beaks; their filver plumage formed an agreeable contrast with the dark green of the date tree. Thousands of doves flew from one cluster of trees to another, and, by their gooing, celebrated the birth of day; while flocks of pigeons left their houses on the river banks; these tame birds, never hunted, never terrified by noily gun-poweder, are without fear, and do not avoid man!

Our anchor weighed, we coasted the left side of the river, aided by the current, and the car; for the wind continued contrary, and passed near Casi (u) Faraounia, situated at the beginning of a large canal, which, obliquely traversing the Delta, falls into the Rosetta branch. On the right of the Nile we perceived various hamlets, lost in the distant horizon, often passed numerous islands, of which the river is full, and soon saw the small fort of Tant, surrounded by a small canal.

An hour after quitting it we came before the village Dagoua, the retreat of robbers, where the elbowing Nile feems willing to

cause they always accompany their alling always

detain travellers of from this winding there is a canal cut as large as the Saone which runs into the canal of Faraounia before it passes Menous the capital of the first province of the Delta svalt sis pavigable from August to December for large boots and it have rowed entirely up it from Nadir on the Roletta branch, to that of Damietta of It rone from northeast to southwest, nor can any thing be more chearful or rich than its banks, which seem a terrestrial paradife. This large canal supplies others, which I shall describe on the map. One of them running to the lake of Bourlos, passes the town of Tanta, where there is a confiderable annual fair, to which the inhabitants of the Upper and Lower Egypt come, in crouds, to exchange their native products for India stuffs. Moka cof-A fee, and French cloths. It continues a week. Defire of gain brings some of the Egyptians, in and love of pleasure, many more. Ten thoufand boats are upon the canal at this feafon. all carrying abundance of provisions, where are good cheer, music, and rejoicing. There are nearly as many tents pitched on thore, to which the most famous courtezans of Egypt fail not to come. They likewife go on board the ginning

the boats, where they display their talents for dancing, singing, and gallantry. Many glass tamps are nightly lighted, the repetition of which reflects innumerable stars in the waters. It he tents have the same, (x) and this wonderful illumination, for the extent of a league, produces, on the grais and the crystal stream, charming effects. These saws, much frequented, are not uncommon. They are the remains of the ancient pilgrimages of the Egyptians to Canopus, Sais, and Bubastus, educated land I daily a rento sould up the bastus, educated land I daily a rento sould up the same and says and

Joyfully quitting Dagoua, we passed various hamsets, and discovered, on the right, the village of Atrib, (y) where there is nothing remarkable but the name, its huts being built over the ruins of the ancient Atribis. Ammianus Marcellinus assirms this was one of the most considerable cities in Egypt; if so, it is assonishing that not one of its monuments remain. A large canal runs a little below Atrib, toward the eastern part of lake Menzala; another, be-

the

ginning

erach T gniziojer bas of um reache boog erache) Herodotus tella us that at the feasts of lines in the city of Buliris, of Diana at Bubastus, and in other cities of Egypt, there were like illuminations. Euterpe, lib. 2.

Inn

ginning mean the single of they Deltau(z), fell sintomith there, bands they, magether, formed the Peluliac branchand following its course, some coincil to Phaculay where the canal began, which communicated with the Red Sea, hard passed the great city of Bubas tus, where Diana was worshiped, sland in whose shonour a magnificent temple was there erected at This worship is described by Herodotus in a picture squeromanner. A I will cite the passage, as its will serve ato prove how little the manners of the Egyptians have changed, since that excellent historian. has someone in each should are deposited in the passage of the Egyptians have changed, since that excellent historian.

The people come in crouds from all parts of Egypt to the feast of Diana, at Bubastus; multitudes of boats row to wards the city, in each of which semale fingers are accompanied by cymbals, and the tambour de basque: men play on the flute, others sing, and beat time with their hands. They stop opposite all the

the Nile was triple below the town of Cercaforum, the feite of which I have indicated, because it divided into three branches. The most eastern, that of Bubastus, or Pelusium, is not navigable; the two others still are.

towns they pass; and the music Arikes win "Women (a), abandoning themselves to Gregoeffive mirth, intice, siby the anothern "diguarded expressions, all they meet of fing "dicentious rairsy mand performalafdivious dances Being rome bto Bubastus, the "i people offer up innumerable facrifices, dus Varing the feltival, and drink more wine Soin one day than in all the year befide! "Above fever chundred thousand people will cite the passage, as 'Larah bldmallate'

The Egyptians, infinced Herodotus, have been governed by various nations, and, at length, are funk deep in ignorance and flavery, but their true character has undergone no change. The frantic ceremonies the Pagan religion authorized hare mow renewed around the sepulches of Santons (b), before the churches of the Copts (c), and in the fairs I mentioned. Their love of pilgrimages

flute, others fing, and beat time with and ton and the the ther hands, they they opposite all the their hands.

⁽b) On certain days the Mahometans visit the sepulchres of persons they hold to be faints, and keep their festivals with mirth, banquetting, and dicentious scite of which I have indicated, because it divided inten

Much the same do the Copts celebrate the feftival of Saint Gemiana, in the Lower Egypt. 10191 10 Sumoi 33

fill fublists to their mulic, and dances are the fames and though thackled by mahometaniferon their metive humours preponderater and the predilections of their forefathers retain their rescondency a so true is it, that, old habits fpringing from the climate, predominate over laws is like a torrent down a declivity, the course of which a legislature cannot frop, but may turn to as not only to prevent its ravages but, to render it useful, Let fcure, the streets crosseyon and reunindoesu I Below Assib the willages are so near each other that the banks of the Nile feam a cantinued stown, sinterrupted only by gardens, and aromatic groves. Contemplating the lucid fky, the variegated trees, the numerous herds, and the ever fpringing wealth of an inexhaustible foil, we say, let us not wonder the Egyptians have produced the most marvellous works in the world; they polleffed knowledge, the finest of climates, and a country which alks nothing from man but to featter feed over its furface. Tyranny and barbarism have spread desolation here; yet, what might not a people, friends of the arts and fciences, fill undertake, what treasures might they not gain from commerce and agriculture.

chline, or what advantages not render for ence and history, by the interpretation of the Egyptian hieroglyphics! Excuse these reflect tions, these hopes of a traveller, who beholds the misery and the wealth of a country so beautious. After four hours passing islands and hains lets, I landed at Mit tham, and walked over this populous trading town, where there is nothing temarkable, nothing that belocates and inquiry. The Bazards are narrow and to foure, the streets crooked and dirty in There is a mosque, with a square tower, which I suppose to have been a church before the conquest of the Arabs, for there is not such a minarch in all Egypt; they being round, simall and high. Soon benegative out, which is

Opposite Michamir's Zephta, which, croffing the river, we wifited, and which, like
the first, was not worth our trouble. The
walls of the houses are some mud, others
brick; many of them are rumous with nobody to repair them. The inhabitants appear miserable, and it is visible that not for
them is the famels of the surrounding lands.

The surrounding lands.

The surrounding surroute,
faw villages in the suite abundance; much more
foon this branch than on that of Rosetta; which

culture.

we must attribute to the destruction of several cities, formerly, Miniche veafters part of the Delta. As they became defolate, the repairing of the canals was ineglected, the lands uncul tivated, and the people coming nearer the river have there fixed their habitations! How many barren fields would a good government give back to agriculture ! The wind contract ry, the rowers fatigued, and night approach4 ing dwe cafe anchor between an illand and Mit Demis, a place not too fafe. but we cians have attributed boogiques to benimine . Slow coming day at length appeared, and

the HKhodem was more pale than usual, which While we quietly flept two swimmers, under favour of darkness, approached the boat, toward midnight. Our fentinel, the janisfary, perceiving them, by flar light, gave the alarm, and fired his musket. They disappeared, and, the noise waking us, we ran to arms h but he! calmed our fears by informing us of the truths So adroit are these thieves that, finding the passengers asleep, they swim away with a part of their effects, and even with large packets: if furprised, they dive, and elude pursuit. This alarm kept us awake all night, and to charm away drowfiness, Mahomet Affalama bathuosardiffinguish it, Loufe Bana

HerodoteH

enlivened by large eupstof Mocdroffed, occasionally emptied by us, and drank here at all hours. The Turks think it braces, and hold it necessary in a country where, relaxed by heat, the Romach scarcely can perform its functions to for this breafon they call it Can hour 6d in fignifying brength as Be this as it may, the Egyptians commonly drink three cups a day, and often much more, without any of the terrible effects European physis cians have attributed to coffee of the immediate

Slow coming day at length appeared, and the rising sun was more pale than usual, which betokened a south windy and which soon rising, we set sail. As we passed, we perceived a canal, beginning below Mit Demis, and taking its course towards the lake Menzalau. The wind freshening, our bark, swiftly cut the waves, and we presently came to the village of Bousir (e), on the western Bank and gnibing, that savaid shad are tioned.

passengers assent they swim away with a past (d) The Arabs call it Boun, when in grain, and Cabon to when ground. From Cabonai the Europeans have formed the word coffee.

Upper, and one in Lower Egypt, which is that I speak of called, to diffinguish it, Bousir Bana.

Herodotus.

of the Nile, two leagues from Semennoud, perfectly according in fituation with that which Herodotus and Strabo give to the ancient city of Busiris the capital of a Nomos; prodigious multitudes of people were drawn hither by the stately temple, consecrated to Isis, the Grecian Ceres, this being one of the most frequented pilgrimages of Egypt. Not a vestige of ancient splendour can be seen at Bousir; standing beside the river, no doubt, the precious marbles of the temple have been carried off; and it may be, also, that some remains might be found under the huts that have since been built there.

A league below Bousir, we saw the mouth of a canal, which, joining an arm of that of Menous, passed near Mehallai, and slowed toward lake Bourlos (f). A little farther I perceived

Herodotus, lib. 2. and Strabo, lib. 17. place Busiris above Sebennytus, now Semennoud, proceeding up the siver, which is the present position of Bousir.

Strabo, speaking of this place, affirms the fables told of the cruel Busiris have no foundation whatever, that Egypt never had a king so called, and that malice had invented them in return for the inhospitality of the Egyptians, who did not love strangers. Lib. 17.

(f) So called by mariners, as is the cape which makes its headland.

perceived a small wood, where, in a former voyage, I had lamled; and, as the fituation was charming, I was determined to diffe there accordingly we went on thore. I A long tow of willows of Babylon, firong and tall, extends along the river bank; the flexible branches dip in the waters. Behind these are pomegranates, which, planted in quincung, and forming a pleafant grove, is furrounded by a canal. From the Nile, at the far endb is a field, various in its productions, and terminated by huts, among which was the orange tree in bloom. Seated beneath the willows upon the river bank, before us was an island dividing its ftream, the verdant grass of which attracted the eye; on the opposite shore, were the villages Salania, Mit Abulhari, and Gerah, separated only by clusters of date and orange trees, and fome fields of pulse and grain. On the right, Bousir might just be perceived; and, on the left, the town of Semennoud, with its lofty minarets. I never beheld a more agreeable fituation. The verdure, flowers, foliage, villages, towns, waters, earth, and heavens, all gave pleafure to the fight. We dined in this delightful fpot, where I twice have stopped, and twice basib have Vot. I.

having felt that involuntary charm, that pure and tranquil content, that expansion of the foul, which the beauties of nature fo powerfully excite, by the grateful superabundance she sheds: happy he, who at such a moment finds a sympathizing heart, to which he can communicate, and by the communication inspire, similar sensations. West of this wood, a league and a half, is Mehalla el Kebira, capital of Garbia, the fecond province of the Delta, and the residence of a Bey. This town is called Kebira the Great, because the Delta contains not any more confiderable. It has a manufactory of cloth, and fal-ammoniac, and a great trade; the furrounding rivers ferving to transport its merchandize over all Egypt. The country round contains numerous villages, herds, and the productions of land ever fertile. Mehalla has replaced the cities of Sebennytus and Busiris, but not their magnificence: it contains no remarkracle of Latous, which on E. spiles slde

While we tranquilly were feated on the river bank, a violent fouth-east wind rose, blew a storm, and raised clouds of fine and scorching dust, which obscured the heavens, and spread a gloomy paleness over the face of nature.

nature. This veil of darkness, through which the sun appeared like blood, continued about two hours. When such like whirlwinds surprize the traveller in the desert, he soon is buried, if not sheltered by a tent, and, if the tempest continues long, even this asylum becomes his grave; the tent and himself both being entombed under a hill of sand. The wind sell, the sky cleared, and, gaining our boat, we proceeded to Semennoud.

This was the ancient Sebennytus, the capital of a Nomos; it is a middle fized, populous, trading place, where bazards, well supplied, afford various commodities, tolerably cheap. Except mosques, all the buildings are of brick; nor could I discover any antiquities. Half a league north of Semennoud is the canal of Thebania, carried to the lake Bourlos, near the ruins of Butis the Great; (g) which city had two temples, dedicated to Apollo and Diana, and was famous also for the oracle of Latona, which all Egypt came to confult. The temple of this goddess was vast and magnificent, and furrounded by a portico fifty feet high, resting on marble columns; daff, which sicured the heavens, and

do osal (g) Herodotus Euterpe, mooly a

a rock of granite, (b) its outward surface fixty seet square, formed a sanctuary, hollowed in it by the mallet and chissel; and a stone of equal surface, and six seet thick, covered it entirely. No modern travellers have visited Butis, because it would be exceedingly dangerous; wherefore we cannot affirm the description of Herodotus to be exact: however, having seen the column of Alexandria, and other monuments, not less surprizing, we are led to believe this historian, who had been on the spot, has not imposed upon posterity.

A league and a half from Semennoud, near the canal of Thebania, is a large mount, covered with ruins, called by Pococke, and father Sicard, Bha Beit, house of beauty; the Turks in my company named it Hajar Beit, house of stone; be this as it may, these are the ruins of a grand temple, wholly of marble; the walls, ten seet thick at the bottom, were of red spotted granite, found in

north lender transfer the

⁽h) This enormous rock, two hundred and forty feet in circumference, was brought from a quarry in the isse of Philæ, near the cataracts, on rasts, for the space of two hundred leagues, to its destined place, and, without contradiction, was the heaviest weight ever moved by human power.

the quarries of Syene, and which bears a perfect polish. The columns, four feet in diameter, had the head of Isis for their capitals. Among these remains are fragments of the sine marble statues which embellished this stately edifice. The stones are full of hieroglyphics, among which are men with pointed bonnets, youthful women, birds, and various animals, all admirably sculptured, excellent in their attitudes, and more pure in their taste, and perfect, than any other of the Egyptian sculpture. These sine ruins are abandoned to the Turks, who daily come and carry off blocks of marble, or saw columns in pieces to make mill-stones.

Pococke and father Sicard agree in saying this temple was built by Busiris, in honour of Iss; but its scite does not correspond with that attributed by Herodotus and Strabo to this city, which, as I have said, stood two leagues above Semennoud, where the village of Bousir now stands. I rather think, with D'Anville, the edifice in question was in the city of Iss itself, which Pliny and Stephen of Bysantium placed towards the bottom of the Delta. Were Egypt not subject to barbarians, might it be searched, many doubts U 2 would

would be removed, which obscure the ancient history of the country. After every possible assistance, there are points on which we only can approach, but never dare flatter ourselves with having attained, the truth.

Returning from our walks toward evening, Mahamet Affalamai, to whom fitting and fmoaking was a pleafure a thousand times fuperior to all the most wondrous ruins of the world, invited me into a coffee-house where he heard music; and I went the more. willingly because, speaking Arabic, I might pass for a Turk. Being armed, well dreffed, and in military habits, we were taken for officers of the Janissaries, and the tradespeople of Semennoud riling, ceded the place of honour. They squatted on matted seats, we fat on a raised sofa, where the master of the house presented us himself with moka, and lighted our pipes. A dancing girl, who amused the company, immediately came to us, and, according to custom, assumed the most voluptuous gestures, and lascivious attitudes, keeping time to cymbals, and a tambour de basque, and receiving applause in proportion as her postures were fignificant and indecent; and the was careful to oblige

her company. The dance ended, feating herself by us, she sang moals in praise of the musfulmen, and afterwards chearful airs. This courtezan called herself Bedaoui; was fourteen, and of an exquisite form, which was not concealed by her light filk dress, negligently tied with a long fash. Her perfumed ebony locks descended in tresses to her heels; a veil, gracefully raised, covered her shoulders; her eyes were black and fine; her skin less brown than common; her mouth and smile charming; but, in my opinion, she was disfigured by two blue spots she had made in her cheeks with gunpowder, and a ring hanging from one of her nostrils. She had come from Cairo to feek her fortune, and, finding us generous, offered to accompany us during our voyage, which we civilly declined, and returned to fleep in our boat.

mis for this ignisated A February 18.

Taking good care to lay in provisions at Semennoud, where are excellent pigeons, poultry, and fine flavoured fresh butter, we departed at day-break, and hoisted sail. The wind almost east, we hoisted sail, and in two hours saw the

as careful to oblige

minarets of Mansoura, whither we soon came, and, being curious to examine a city so famous for the missortunes of Louis IX. and his fortitude, I landed. It is tolerably large, but unfortissed; the streets narrow, and the houses of brick, as is usual in the Delta. One part is half in ruins; and here, no doubt, it was that the brave Joinville, who had penetrated thus far, so long defended himself against the Egyptians, and escaped, covered with wounds. Here the Duke of Britanny lost an eye: but I shall reserve these anecdotes for the short narrative I have promised.

Mansoura is a modern town, the origin of which Abulseda thus gives: (i) "King "Kamel, (k) son of El Adel, sounded Man"soura, where the Nile divides; one branch "running to Damietta, the other to Ach-

The above passage proves the learned Pococke was mistaken in supposing this city the Tanis, or Zoan, of Scripture.

⁽i) " Oua el Mansoura benaha el melec, el kamel eba " el adel, and masterek el Nil ila doumiat, oua achmoun benaha fi ouegg el adou lamma haserou doumiat."

⁽k) The seventh of the Ayoubite kings; he died at Damascus, in the year 635 of the Hegyra.

moun,

"moun, (1) as a bulwark against the enemy,
who then besieged Damietta." (m)

The Christians of Syria, settled at Mansoura, (n) are the chief traders, and the principal articles are the fine rice growing round the lake, and sal-ammoniac. Here are vast chicken-ovens; and, as Egypt is the only country where this mode of hatching is practised, I will describe it.

Imagine a building of two stories, one under ground, and the other but little above, equally divided, length-ways, by a narrow gallery; on the right and left are small cells, where the eggs are put; the upper-story is vaulted with an ox-eye aperture at the top, and a smaller one on the floor, by which heat is communicated below; both have a small window carefully closed, and only one low door for the whole building. The eggs are

one are meanable situation or hope

Menzala, and sometimes called by them Achmoun Tanis, it having replaced the ancient city of Tanis, the ruins of which are seen in an isse of the lake. Achmoun was founded in the reign of Elmetouakkel. Elmacin.

⁽m) King Kamel built Mansoura, while the crusaders laid siege to Damietta, thirty-one years prior to the expedition of Louis IX. Macrizi.

⁽n) Manfoura, in Arabic, fignifies the victorious.

arranged in heaps in the lower flory, and a fire of fun-dried cow-dung kindled in the upper, morning and night, an hour each. This is repeated for eight days, and the building, being sufficiently heated, the fire is put out, every aperture closed, and a part of the eggs heaped up below are carried above. The fuperintendant occasionally examines if it be necessary to increase or diminish the heat. On the nineteenth day the chickens begin to move in their shells, nibble with their beaks on the twentieth, endeavouring to break their prison, and are usually completely hatched on the twenty-first; then do these heaps of eggs, apparently lifeless, begin to move, and roll about the floor, and thoufands of little various coloured chickens to run and hop round the apartment. This fight is truly diverting. They are carried in panniers, and cried about the streets on the morrow, each house stocking itself at a half-penny apiece. Various authors have half-penny apiece. faid these fowls are not so good as those hatched by the hen, but they are mistaken. A French cook I faw at Grand Cairo bought them every year, and when well fed they became excellent poultry. People here fay the arranged

the villagers of Bermai only know the fecret of this mode of incubation, but this I cannot certify.

Having examined Mansoura, we went to fee the canal, which, north of the town, is wide, deep, and runs to the lake Menzala, below Achmoun; the paffing of it was fatal to the French army, and its blood-stained waters washed away the dead. Our curiofity satisfied, we set sail towards evening. The Nile near Manfoura takes another, and a north-east, direction. The country on each side is equally fertile, but the villages less frequent. We passed Diast. about dusk, which place is nearly a day's journey from Saint Gemiana, where the Copts go on pilgrimage, and at which time the neighbouring plain is covered with tents. Christians and Mahometans promiscuously feast for a week, have horse races, wine and good cheer; and, dancing girls coming in crouds, Bacchus and Venus are not banished the feltival.

Night came on; but darkness, neither thick nor impenetrable, here, is rather a transparent veil, half concealing objects, through which

which the azure serene sky is seen, and all the shining host of heaven. The stars seem brighter, and larger, than in cooler climates, and night, in Egypt, has a thousand charms which are rarely felt in Europe. Never is her mild face obscured by utter darkness. never her tranquillity disturbed by tempestuous winds, nor do descending torrents ever produce a temporary chaos. When the fun fets, the wind usually falls; nature becomes perfectly calm, and contemplative man may then, untroubled, undifturbed, study himself and his faculties. Astronomy, whose residence is in the heavens, viewing the splendid firmament, may follow the course of the stars through the immensity of space.

While failing with the stream, wandering lights informed us of the approach of
boats, going upwards. There was one,
that, passing, ran foul of us, by which
we were near being sunk. We immediately
made for shore to examine if there was no
leak, where we resolved to pass the night.
This accident happened near the small village of Saoualim, and this was the second

time

me, as I will shew, for the instruction of those whom curiosity may bring to Egypt.

The year before, I failed from Cairo, with a French officer, who was going to embark, at Damietta, for India, by the way of Baffora: we had only one fervant, and three mariners; and this officer, during the voyage, opened and counted a box of fequins, This, as I told him, was putting our lives in danger, but he difregarded me. The failors, feeing the gold, conspired to have us murdered, which they could not execute the two first nights, we being on our guard. A contrary wind forcing us to lie-to, on the third, one of them went to a neighbouring hamlet, and, an hour after, returning, laid down to rest with the others. The fatigue of heat, and long watching, overcame us, and I had flept foundly about an hour when I felt as if suddenly shaked, and was perfectly awake, without knowing how. The moon shone bright, and the first object I beheld was a man, with one foot in the boat, and an uplifted poniard. I ran to my double barrelled musket, and, clapping it to his breast, cried, in Arabic, he was dead if he did

did not retire. The fellow flood motion less, with surprize; and I, instantly, porceived, a few paces further, three others. armed with fabres, and piftols; I watched their motions, and determined to fire on the first who offered the least threat; but durst not turn my head to wake my companion. lest they should attack me. Him whom I held in play having drawn back, I awakened the officer, who armed himself, and while the thieves held council, two paces from us, I let flip the boat, and we paffed to the other fide of the river. During this whole scene, the boatmen and servant feigned to be in a dead fleep, nor could my calling awaken them; blows were necessary for that. When I came to Damietta, I perceived the rascals had stolen several of my effects, but the fear of the bastinado compelled restoration. Escaped this danger, I returned thanks to Providence, who permitted me to awake fo feafonably; two minutes more would have been too late.

r9th.

The remembrance of the past made us watch all night; but the precaution was needless: we remained undisturbed. Our boat,

boat, having been only slightly damaged, above water, we departed, betimes, passed Farescour, and, two hours after, discovered the charming town of Damietta, forming a vast crescent on the eastern shore of the Nile. Numerous boats and small vessels were at anchor there, and we proceeded to the custom-house.

I have the honour to be, &co.

he threves held comont, tweethers, in a let thin the poat, and a patient in the other fide of the aver. During this close feeled the boatmen and crivant leigned to be in a sead fleep, nor could my calling awaken them, thows were necessary for that. When I came to Damietta, I percented the tate is had floten feveral of my effects but the fear of the bashinado compete it restoration. Escaped this danger, I percurned thanks to Providence, who percurned thanks to Providence, who percurned thanks to Providence, who percurned thanks to awake so teasonably; two mitters over the awake so teasonably; two mitters over the result of the best too late.

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The remembrance of the past made us veatch all night; but the precaution was needless, we remained undisturbed. Our Tall

eseer end distinct ideas, "Damietta." fays Abolfed 1111XX va awild and, at the seathern esseet of the Nile." (c) This

History of Damietta, ancient and modern; when founded: their scite: travellers refuted who have all confounded or misplaced them in their maps and narratives. Modern Damietta; its extent, trade, baths, inhabitants, and charming environs, howers, and orange groves; with an account of the lotus, papyrus, and the fine rice, sent from Damietta to Syria, the Archipelago, and Marseilles.

278 of the Hegym .L.M of importance of a

maritime town, fo favourably fituated, was

MOST writers have confounded the ancient with the modern Damietta; so obscure, Sir, is its history; and the repetition of their errors has thrown great darkness and uncertainty over this important point of Egyptian geography, to dispel which it is necessary to begin with the famous Damietta, so often attacked by European princes. A knowledge of places, dates, and facts, presented under their true light, will give you clear

elear and distinct ideas. "Damietta." favs Abulfeda, (o) " was a walled town, at the es eastern mouth of the Nile." (p) This perfectly accords with history: let us therefore search for the origin of the place. Stephen of Byfantium informs us it was called Thamiatis, under the government of the Lower Empire, but was, then, inconfiderable. It daily increased in proportion as Pelufium, frequently facked, declined; and the entire ruin of that ancient city removed commerce to the east of the Delta. The Emperors of Constantinople, a second time, seized on Damietta, then unfortified, about the year 238 of the Hegyra. But the importance of a maritime town, fo favourably fituated, was at length feen; and fix years after, the Caliph Elmetouakkel (q) furrounded it with firong min and to dista walls:

(o) Oua doumlat cadet medina melaoura ala el bahr and melaab el Nil el sharki. Description of Egypt.

(p) Called the eaftern mouth, by the Arabian geographer, because, Pelusium having been often sacked, and at last destroyed, by the Crusaders, the canals that ran to it became unfrequented, and the branch of Damietta the most eastern.

(q) Great works were performed in Egypt during his reign, such as finishing the walls of Alexandria, Vol. I. X Damietta,

walle, which, however, did not impede the valiant Roger, king of Sicily, from taking it, in the year 350 of the Hegyra. Salah Eddin, who began to reign over Egypt about this time, did not let him long enjoy his conqueft, but drove the Europeans from Damietta, who, fifteen years after, returned again to beliege it. Their efforts were ineffectual, for, thought their land army was fulfained by a fleet of twelve hundred welfels (r), the Sultan forced them to fretire with shame, again a bare selted whoold

This place was fated to be continually befieged. Again the crusaders attacked it, with powerful forces, under the reign of El Addel, in the year 6 15 of the Hegyra. They landed on the western shore of the Nile, and secured their camp by a fosse, and a pallisade. The mouth of the river was defended by two

Damietta, founding Achmoun, Rosetta, Catavah, &c. all executed by order of Ebn Toulon, one of the most famous governors of this country, and who, ambitious and thirsting to become independent, wished to possess fortified places, in which he might brave the power of the Caliphs. These having obtained, he reared the standard of rebellion, declared himself king of Egypt, and defended it against the whole force of Asia.

(r) Macrizi History of the Dynasties of Egypt: bus

towers,

towers, well garrifoned , and a chain of iron, fretched across prevented the entrance of veffels. The crufaders took the tower, next their camp broke the chain, and gave a paffage to their fleet. Nejem Eddin (s) the fon of the Sultan, encamped near Damietta, covered bit with an army, and, to stop the enemy's veffels, threw a bridge over the Nile, which they destroyed; he then funk several large barks, and rendered the passage almost impracticable of After many turns of fortune, bloody battles, and a fiege of feventeen months, the christian princes took Damietta, by affault, but did not long enjoy the fruit of all the blood they had spilt, and an armament which had coft fums to immente. Surrounded, near the canal (t) of Achmoun, by the waters of the Nile, and the Egyptian army, they bought their lives and liberty by restoring their conquest.

Thirty-one years after their defeat, Louis

towets

substiding only bus visuos eith to stone of succession (4). This valiant prince, then very young, made his tofirst campaigns against the Europeans, gained several wickeries, afterward, over the rebels of Syria, and died, at Mansoura, some time after Louis IX. took Damietta.

⁽t) A quarter of a league north of Mansoura, where ended the exploits of Louis IX.

The daring valous of a king who throughing felf armed into the water to march against an enemy entrenched on shore, and the impediotity with which he attacked them, spread terror through their army, which, slying, cowardly abandoned a fortress amply stored and capable of long resistance. The Arabs, soom after, recovered it, as I shall show in the history of the descent of Louis IX. but, weary of desending a place, which brought upon them the most warlike nations of Europe, they wholly erased and re-built it, higher up the country, as Abulfeda and all the oriental writers attest. I will cite their most important passages.

"Damietta being destroyed they built a "town at some distance, and called it Men"shia, which is become a considerable place,
"where now, (a hundred years after it was founded) are squares, bazards, and public baths. The ancient city was destroyed in the year 648 of the Hegyra; (a) the "woes it had brought on Mussumen, and the wars it had excited, reduced them to the mecessity; this fortress, seeming to interest the arms of the Franks who came to with the arms of the Franks who came to the control of the control of the control of the control of the control

lessified is already half a league inland; the other, incurred modern, will foon be the tame; for the thore on when

took Dankierla, Wishodt schiking a blow.

Magnizi, confirming the opinion of Abidfeda removes all doubte. Is will transcribe the
passage of translated by the learlied Cardonne, for a fact disfigured by the errors of
somany travellers requires full demonstration.

on Two years after the departure of Louis
Like under the reign of Moaz Eddin Aybell,
the Turcoman forst Sultant of the dynasty of
the Baharite Mamluks, a report being
"aspread that the French threatened Egypt,
"a second time, it was resolved to delive
"Damietta, and the place was rased, to that
"notice vestige remained, except the grand
"modque being Nor was this thought wish
apaid alde to mood a mood at done weight
apaid alde to mood a mood at done weight

's where now, (a hundred vears after it was (x) A grand mosque is still seen at the village of Eloa, east of the Nile, a short league from the sea, whither I have been ten times, carefully examined the envirops, and faw the foundations of the walls of ancient Damietta. There was also an arch of brick, of old confraction, which might be one end of a bridge, an antique towers half demolished, where were two carrions with. out carriages, and ruins, which make its fituation in dubitable. The distance of Esba from the sea is what the Delta has lengthened in the space of 600 years: this has obliged the Mamluks to raife two small forts beyond the village, to defend the passage of the river. That on the left-shore is already half a league inland; the other, more modern, will foon be the fame; for the shore on which X 3 Pococke.

"cient; for, cleven years after, under the " reign of Bibar Elbondouk Dari, they lo "Ropped up the mouth of the Nile (y) that "the enemy's fleets could not enter fince "when the paffage is for obstructed that ships "are obliged to anchor in the road. b. The " present Damietta was built after the for-"mer was destroyed, and stands on the same "fide, higher up the river." - It is in reality a league and a half above the village of Efba; where traces of the first Damietta are feen. The moderny Abulfeda tells us, was called Menshia, and it still contains a square, so named, in memory of its origin. Most writers have confounded the two cities, attributing to the one what appertained to the other. The note (2) will thew what great authorities have obscured this part of history and geo-'yddatgas barred, by a chain, feems vifible. For, on

it is built runs three leagues into the fez, and, being now almost as high as the water, in less than a century

will form a cape

Bogaz, not less dangerous than that of Rosetta, and impassable by boats during several months of the year. Shipwrecks are frequent here; I have four times passed it, but not without persi.

(2) Pather Sicard fays, "The lake Menzala hegan half a league from Damietta, formerly Thamiatis."
Let. Ed. p. 340.—The Damietta he means is not the

ancient Thamiatis

graphy. I paffed fourteen months at the modern Damietta, which I will describe, of year, and not less agreeable than Rosetta, less agreeable than Rosetta, and not less agreeable than Rosetta.

Potocke, having spoken of modern Damietta, udils, at the morth end of Damietta, there is a very fine large sound tower, built of hewnstone, which might be the work of the Mamlaks, after they recovered Damietta from the Christians. — The learned Englishman confounds the city the Egyptians destroyed with the present. Prosper Alphus falls into a much greater error in supposing Damietta the ancient Pelusium. Damietta is two and twenty leagues from the ruins of Pelusium.

Maillet has committed the fame fault. The city of Damietta corresponds to the ancient Pelulum, which projected into the sea half a league? has seaffined

arken . 4 witte Able of its origin. Most writers

eitsimselT ter

Doctor Shaw copying Maillet has adopted his error. Niebuhr, who has given an excellent plan of Damietta, allo, confounds it with the ancient, as the following pallage fliews. 1 20 I find not the least trace of the walls "of Danietta, but the place where it is pretended the Nile was barred, by a chain, feems visible. For, on the northern part, within the city, is an old high tower; the river, there, is little more than a hun-" dred feet wide [he is greatly deceived] and, on the opposite shore, is a like tower, the upper part of "which is now demolished." Travels in Arabia, Vol. L. These towers, which made him take the modern for the ancient Damietta, were built by the Mamluks, to defend the new city. Finding them useless, they have demolished one; and employed the materials in confirmeting a fmall forty at the mouth of the riverages a Had .

it. Ed. p. 340. The 40 Knierta he means is not the

it forms a semicircle, on the eastern shore of the Nile, two leagues and a half from the mouth. Standing at one end of this the eye furyeys it in its whole extent. It contains about eighty thousand inhabitants, has several squares, one of which is called Menthia : Bazards, filled with merchandize, okals, or khans, as spacious as those of Boulac, under the porticos of which are Indian stuffs, filks from Mount Lehangn, fal ammoniac, and quantities of rice, bespeak it a commercial place. The houses, especially hear the river, are very high; most of them have pleasant saloons, built on the terraces; in which charming places, open to every wind, the Turk, indolently feated on his fofa; palles his life, in smoaking, viewing the sea, bounded by the horizon, the grand lake lying on the other fide, and the Nile, which, running between the two, traveries a rich country. Various grand morques, with high minarets, ornament the city. The public batha faced with marble, are fimilar to those of Gland Cairo; the linen is clean, and the water very pure. The heat, and process face from injuring, conduces to and eyen reestablishes, health, when used with moderations bogazi

les de la considera de la companio del companio de la companio de la companio del companio de la companio del companio della c in Egypt; and the observations of several years, and the altonishing effects produced by the practice, have obliged me to think them

very falutary.

Multitudes of boats and small vessels incesfantly fill the port of Damietta, Some, named therm, ferve to load and unload the thips, that anchor in the road; others are coasting pilot boats. There is a great trade between this city and Syria, Cyprus, and Marfeilles. The rice mezelaout, the finest of Egypt, is cultivated in the neighbouring plains, and its annual exportation amounts, to between two and three hundred thousand pounds. There are likewise cloths, lal ammoniac wheat see Laws, ruinous to the country prohibit the exportation of the latter; but they are evaded, and it is passed as rice. The christians of Aleppo and Damascus, for many ages effablished here, carry on the principal Turkish indolence, which contents itself with occasional extortions. Exportation of rice is forbidden, but, by arrangements advantageous to the receiver of the customs, the people of Provence annually load leveral ships. The zidi bogaz

bogaz prevents them from entering the Nile, and their cargoes are brought by boats, which practice is productive of innumerable vexations and abuses. The rice of the best quality, which departs in the evening for the thip, feldom arrives there, but an inferior fort is substituted during the night. The captains of Marfeilles, aware of these tricks, but unable to prevent them, endeavour to repel fraud by fraud, and traffic becomes a kind of mutual robbery. The thing most disadvantageous to the trade of Damietta is its defective harbour; the road where veffels lie being totally exposed, every gale that rises the captains are obliged to flip their cables, and take refuge at Cyprus, or keep the open fea. By cutting a canal of half a league only it would be eafy to give thips free entrance into the Nile, which is deep; and this small expence would render Damietta a fine harbour : but despotism, infentible to the good of nations, always marches towards destruction, and has neither will not power to create. How strange the fatality, by which the finest country on earth is become the defined prey of a few robbers, who sport with public utility and the lives of greater at night, for frost and snow are her The author also ays means Recumer's thermemers!

The flip of land where Damietta is built. thut in on one fide by the river, and on the other by the lake Menzala, is only from two to fix miles wide east and west. Rivulets interfect it in every direction, and render it the most fruitful part of Egypt. The rice in common yields eighty bushels for one, and other products are in the fame proportion. Here nature, eminently and profusely difplaying her riches and her pomp, prefents the year round flowers, fruits, and harvests! She withers not in winter; the fades not in fummer! She is neither scorched nor frozen! The thermometer only varies from the ninth degree above freezing to the twenty-fourth; (a) which happy temperature Damietta owes to the vast quantities of water by which it is The thermometer rifes twelve degrees higher at Grand Cairo. Verdure is no where so fresh as here; trees no where fo loaded with fruit. The banks among the rice fields bear feveral species of reeds, some of which grow very high; among them

(a) According to an entire year's observations, but only continued during the day, the cold is not much greater at night; for frost and fnow are here unknown. The author always means Reaumur's thermometer. T. is the calamus in abundance, with which the orientals write. Its small stalk bears long parrow leaves, gracefully pendent, and pliant branches, bedecked with white flowers. There have I seen the papyrus in quantities, the paper of the ancient Egyptians. This triangular rush, eight or nine seet high, and an inch thick, bears a lanigerous tust. Strabo calls it biblus, (b) and describes it so as not to be mistaken. The lotus also, which the Arabs call by the primitive name of puphar, here raises its proud stalk above the waters, expands its large calix of light azure, or the purest white, and appears the king of aquatic plants. The inland ponds and canals abound

(b) The papyrus grows naturally in Lower Egypt; I have feen it on the banks of lake Marcotis; it is a rush, with a naked stalk ten feet high, bearing a woolly tust. The publicans (receivers of the customs) who farm this branch of trade, only suffer it to grow in sew places, that they may raise the price, and thus injure the public good. Strabo, lib. 17, notice that it is good.

The present scarcity of the papyrus in Egypt is owing to this avidity of the publicans, and the care with which they destroyed it. I have only seen it round Damietta and the lake Menzala; and most travellers, who have not been there, have not mentioned it; some, less circumspect, have denied its existence, and propagated sables on the subject.

with

with this stately flower, which yields a most agreeable odour.

There are many villages round Damietta most of them have manufactories, where the finest Egyptian cloth is made, particularly napkins, much in request, at the ends of which are filk-fringe: they are brought to table, effectally on vilits of ceremony, the flave prefents one to wipe the mouth after drinking therbet, (c) or eating confectionary, ferved on a filver plate. Round these villages usually are finall woods, where the trees, planted promiscuously, have an uncommon and piczo turesque effect. Beside the sycamore and gloomy tamarind the elegant caffia grows a with clustering yellow flowers, refembling those of the cytisus; the top of the date, loaded with clusters, lords it above the bower! and near its shade the citron and orange rife, ublicans (receivers of the cuftoms) who

ritiv

fignifies beverage. It is composed of lemon juice, sugar, and water, in which perfumed paste is disloved, made from the excellent fruits of Damascus; they usually mingle a little rose water. It is a most agreeable beverage, the nector of the orientals, and drank only by the great, or people in office. It was several times presented with it on my whits to the governor of Damietta, and drank it with pleasure, agong has something an bound over frequency.

or over the peafant's cottage extend their golden fruit. The long leaved banana, the fearlet flowered pomegranate, and the fweet fruited fig, featter charming variety; often fraying among their meandering paths, shaded on one fide by trees, and on the other by clustering reeds, impervious to fight, I have unexpectedly found myfelf on the banks of the great lake Menzala. Here a different prospect rose: thousands of boats were employed in fishing, or foreading nets, for the innumerable birds which hither come in fearch of abundant food. and a temperate climate. - I wish, Sir, to paint nature such as I have a thousand times feen her round Damietta wbut I feel myfelf unequal to the talk. Imagine all the delights that running brooks and fresh verdure, all the odour that orange flowers, all that a mild fuavity, a balfamic air, and a most enchanting horizon can impart, and you will then have but a feeble idea of the small slip of earth, included between this expansive lake and the ever flowing Nile !! To be send tA

A mile fouth-west of the town is an orange grove, to which the inhabitants resort, where the walks are made straight; and this is the only place where art has any way aided nature:

nature; no where elfe are the trees planted in rows: here I almost daily went, especially during February, Marchanand April, when the orange his insiftower in No words can express the pleasure of breathing the cool and perfumed air of these delightful shades of The unmutilated trees are above thirty feet high, and their intermingled branches, and thick foliage, all in bloom from top to bottom, wholly exclude the fun's rays. Each orange tree is a vast nosegay, the flowers of which almost conceal the leaves, forming together the most beauteous canopy ever beheld! There is a finall rivulet befide each row and twice a day a refervoir is opened, by which the trees are watered. It is intoxication of pleasure to walk here at noon, and never did I fo forcibly feel all the delicious enjoyments that odours and aromatics can inspire. Here, in these hot climates, was I convinced that fuch sweets, far from injuring, are even necesearth, included between this distantion via

At one end of this walk is a canal, full of the papyrus. Entering, on the left stands the gardener's but, and a grove of cition and palmtrees; planted so near each other as scarcely believer you and me and some sold ying

nature;

to grant admission. This place, enclosed by disches and pallisades, is the asylum of mystery, where the handsomest of the Turkish women occasionally come to breathe, say they, balsamic sweetness beneath these shades.

I shall conclude this letter, Sir, by a short tale, which will prove that incidents fimilar to those of the times of Jacob are ftill renewed in Egypt. The plains of Syria last year were ravaged by clouds of locusts, which devoured the corn to the very root. A famine followed, and a farmer near Damascus felt the effects of the general diffress. To supply the wants of a numerous family, he fold his cattle; which refource being foon exhaufted, the unhappy father, wretched at present, but forefeeing greater wretchedness to come, pressed by hunger, fold his instruments of husbandry at Damascus. Led by the invisible hand of Providence, as formerly Tobias was by the angel, while he bargained for corn, lately arrived from Damietta, he heard speak of the fuccess of Mourad Bey, (d) who had entered party office portional bound part of acres And Grand

⁽d) Mourad Bey and Ibrahim Bey have, for feven years, been the most powerul fangiaks of Egypt; both being ambitious, they quarrelled, made war, and were reconciled,

Grand Cairo victorious, and in triumph. The shape, character, and origin, of the warrior were described, and how he had risen from flavery to power supreme. The aftonished farmer found the description accorded with a fon, who had been stolen from him at twelve years old: hope palpitated in his heart; he haftened home with his provisions, told his family what he had heard, and determined, immediately, to depart for Egypt. His weeping wife and fons offered up prayers for his fafe return. Going to the port of Alexandretta, he embarked there, and came to Damietta. One continued fear tormented him; his fon, forfaking the religion of his fathers, had embraced Mahometanism; and now, surrounded as he was by splendor, would he acknowledge his parents? The thought lay heavy on his heart; yet, the wish to fnatch his family from all the horrors of, famine, the hope of finding a long lamented

Mourad Bey at length prevailed; and, forcing his colleague to fly into Upper Egypt, now reigns in Cairo. In the course of these letters I shall trace their characters and principal actions, which I myself have seen. fon, gave him fortitude. He continued his journey, came to the capital, repaired to the palace of Mourad, applied to the officers of the prince, and, most ardently, folicited admission. His dress and appearance bespoke poverty and misfortune, and were poor recommendations, but his great age, fo respectable in the east, pleaded in his behalf. One of the attendants went to the Bey, and told him an aged man, apparently miserable, requested an audience. Let him enter, replied Mourad; and the farmer proceeded, with trembling steps, over the rich carpet which bespread the hall of the Divan, and approached the Bey, who reclined on a fofa, embroidered with filk and gold. Crouding fensations deprived him of the use of speech: at last, after attentively looking, the voice of nature vanquishing fear, he fell, and embracing his knees, exclaimed, You are my fon! The Bey raised him, endeavoured to recollect, and, after explanation, finding him to be his father, made him fit down by his fide, and careffed him most affectionately. The first gush of nature over, the Sire described in what deplorable state he had left his mother, and brethren, and the prince proposed

proposed to send for, and with them divide his riches and power, if they would embrace Islamism. This the generous christian had foreseen, and, fearing youth might be dazzled, took not one of his sons with him. He, therefore, firmly rejected Mourad's offer, and even remonstrated with him on his own change of religion. The Bey, sinding his father determined, and that his family's distress demanded immediate succour, sent him back to Syria, with a large sum of money, and a vessel loaded with corn. The happy husbandman immediately returned to the plains of Damascus, where his arrival banished misery, and tears, from his homely roof, and brought joy, ease, and felicity.

This, you perceive, Sir, greatly refembles the hiltory of Joseph; and would more,

perhaps, did we know all the incidents.
The Bey railed him, endeavoured to re-

collect, and edeorerwonodiady swaling him to be his father, made him fit down by his fide, and carefied him most affectionately. The first gust of nature over, the Sire described in what deplorable state he had less his mother, and brethren, and the prince his mother and brethren, and the prince

LETTER XXIV.

On ancient Pelufium, unknown to modern travellers, its fituation, and decline, with remarks on Farama, not far from it, where the Arabs place a tomb, which, probably, is that of Pompey the Great. The take Tanis, now Menzala, its ifles and ancient towns, with observations on its fishery, outlets into the Mediterranean, and innumerable birds.

yond the cataracts, had notorce suffici

coris de de la contrada de la contrada con con con contrada de la contrada del contrada de la contrada del contrada de la contrada del c

PELUSIUM, as I have faid, stood at the eastern extremity of the lake Menzala; its name, fignifying mud (e), describes its marshy situation, which, according to Strabo, (f) was but two miles from the sea. Its origin, like that of most ancient cities of Egypt, is too remote to be known; it sourished long before Herodotus, and, being a barrier city towards Asia, the Pharoahs made it a considerable fortress: one of them raised a rampart, extending thirty leagues, from its

⁽e) Πηλύςιου, means mud: the Arabs have continued the name, and called it Thinch, mud.

⁽f) Strabo, lib. 17.

walls to Heliopolis. History shews us that the long wall of China, those which the Greek emperors built round Constantinople, and many others, were most expensive, but impotent obstructions to a warlike people; and that, to secure a state, warriors are better than walls: men are only to be repelled by men. The bulwark of Pelulium stopped not Cambyses, who attacked it with a formidable army; and the feeble fon of Amalis, not forefeeing the defertion of two hundred thousand Egyptians, who went and founded a colony beyond the cataracts, had no force sufficient to oppose the torrent which ravaged his kingdom. Cambyles, after a bloody battle, in which his enemies were flaughtered, entered Pelufium triumphant; and, from this memorable day, which faw the defertion of one part of the military of Egypt, and the ruin of the other, we may date the fervitude of that rich land, which has fince paffed under the yoke of the Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Greeks, Arabsin and Turks, A A flate of flavery of more than two thousand years seems to have made her chains eternal.

Herodotus, who was at Pelusium some years after its conquest by Cambyses, has a passage Y 3 which

which I must not omit. "I examined the plain, "where the two armies had fought, and faw "it covered with heaps of human bones : on "the one fide were those of the Persians, on "the other those of the Egyptians, the natives "having carefully separated them, after the " battle. Were it not for the explanation I " received, there was one fact which would " have appeared very aftonishing. The thin " and fragile skulls of the Persians broke, "when gently struck with a stone; while "those of the Egyptians, thick and compact, relifted the ftrokes of the flint. This dif-" ference of folidity they attributed to the " custom the Persians have, from their "infancy of wearing tiaras (caps) and the " contrary one, of the Egyptians, of maving " their children's heads, and leaving them " bare, exposed to the heat of the sun : which " explanation appeared fatisfactory (g)."

The same custom still subsists; I have every where seen the children of the common people, whether running in the fields, affembled round the villages, or fwimming in the waters, with their heads shaved, and bare. Let us but imagine the hardness a

was this great man, wilsd'T entopored (3)er

the standard on it. (cxamped the plain, the standard to the law armies had fought, and faw deorching fun, and we shall not be assonished at the remark of Herodotus. Pelusium passed from the Persian dominion to that of Alexander; and the brave Antony, general of the horse under Gabinius, took it from his succeffors. Rome restored it to Ptolemy Auletes. Pompey the great, whose power had re-established this young prince on the throne of Egypt, fought refuge, after the fatal battle of Pharfalia, in Pelusum. He landed at the entrance of the harbour, and, quitting Cornelia, his wife, and fons, recited, from Sophocles, this passage-"The free man, who feeks an afylum in the court " of a king, there, meets flavery, and chains." He there met death! Scarcely had he stepped on thore before the rhetorician Theodorus, a native of Chio, the courtier Septimius, and the eunuch Achillas, who commanded the troops, delirous of a victim for the conqueror, pierced him with their swords. Seeing the affassins come, Pompey hid his face in his mantle, and died like a Roman. His head was embalmed, as an offering for Cælar, and his body cast naked on the shore! Thus was this great man, whose warlike talents Y 4 had

had made the Romans free of the leas, and added kingdoms to her schipire, basely slain, landing on the territories of a king who owed to him his crown! His freedman, Philip, favoured by darkness, collected the wreck of a boat, and, taking off his mantle to in-wrap the melancholy remains of his matter, burnt the body, as was the custom. An old soldier, who shad served under Pompey, mingling his tears with those of Philip, assisted him in paying these last duties to the manes of his general.

Pelusium had often been taken and pillaged in the wars of the Romans, Greeks, and Arabs; yet still preserved its commerce and wealth till the time of the Crusades. After taking it by assault, the christian princes sacked it, and no more rising from its ruins, its inhabitants, as I have said, removed to Damietta.

what east of Pelusium, succeeded it, but did not long subsist, for it was ruinous in the thirteenth century. Abulfeda, (h) citing Ebn Haukal, says here was the tomb of

Description of Egypts The state of the state

Galen, Heir iso miltakenno Sthis celebrated physician was buried at Pergamus, his native place (i) The maufoleum Abulfeda mene tions must be that of Pompey, which Pliny places force distance from Mount Casius [k] Abulfeda adds citing Ebn Said sthat the ifthmus of Suez is only twenty-three leagues wide, in this part, and that Aurron intended to have cut a canal that should have come municated with the two feas, but was prevented by Omar, who, wanting a marine feared to give the Greek ships a passage into his flates. This enterprize, bathoughtugreat, would probably have been executed by the man who conquered Egypt, and dug a havigable canal from the Nile to the Red Sea.

anouth. Galen. gnivael eleription of Egypts

⁽i) Galen, after studying physic at Alexandria, came, at the age of thirty-four, to Rome, where his learning and talents soon made him known. Marcus Aurelius, a judge of merit, appointed him his physician, which he afterward was to two of his successor. Weary of the court, Galen retired to Pergamus, his native place; where, passing the remainder of his life in calm philosophy, he died, aged sixty-three.

Farama are near Mount Cassus, and the tomb mentioned by Ebn Haukal seems to be that of Pompey.

Leaving the Pelufiac branch, and proceedting well-ward along the fea shore, we come to the Tanitic mouth, so named from Tanis, a considerable city built on an island of the lake, and the capital of a Nomos. It slourished under Augustus, (1) but Abulfeda informs us it was destroyed, in his time, and had become uncultivated and forsaken.

Several fishermen have affired me, during my stay at Damietta, they had seen marble columns and ruins of grand edifices in an island of the lake. I intended to have visited them, but on account of the great expense of such a voyage, in purchasing permission of the governor, and obtaining one of his officers and some Janussies to accompany me, I was obliged to renounce this project. May some one richer than myself, or aided by government, search this grand lake, observe the depth of its months, describe the antiquities it contains, and perform what no modern travellers have undertaken.

After the Tanitic comes the Mendefian

Achmoun.

⁽¹⁾ Strabo, lib (170 and chow asignad a A (m)

mouth,

mouth, so named from the ancient city of Mendes (m) famous for its temple, and the indecent ceremonies of the goat; the origin of which was this, according to Herodotus felen Hercules ardently intreated Jupiter would fhew himfelf to him; which, deaf to his prayer, the God refused At " length, overcome by his intercessions, he consented, on condition it should be in " the form of a goat; and, covering him-" felf with the skin of that animal, he appeared to the hero. The Egyptians to preserve the memory of this event, reprefent Jupiter with the head of a goat pur. When the facred animal dies, the Mendesian province observes a general mourning." Decency forbids me to cite the remainder of this passage; those who desire to know how far the phrenzy of bigotry may carry an ignorant and superstitious populace may confultithe original supporte and lediral

The traveller who would find the ruins of Mendes must, according to Herodotus and Strabo, seek them not far from the canal of

⁽m) An Egyptian word, fignifying goat. Herodotus.

Achmoun, on the banks of the lake Menagain be opened, but, in the prefent feeble

Before we come to the Phatmetic branch, I have described a new one on the map, not noticed by any geographer, which I observed in a voyage I made thither when the Nile was high. It is about a hundred and fifty feet wide, the current tolerably strong, but I know not if it be deep, or be not dry a part of the year. It is a natural channel which the waters of the lake have opened into the lea, into which a part of the river might ealily be turned to give passage to vessels. A league farther is the Phatmetic branch, now that of Damietta; here the Delta begins, and cape Bourlos, near the Sebennytic mouth, forms the headland. It is terminated by the Rosetta, formerly the Bolbitine branch; and, anciently, extended to the Canopic branch, which falls into the fea, near Aboukir. These are the seven mouths of the Nile. fung by the Poets (p), which once were all navigable, and which only those of Rosetta and Damietta now are; some of them might

rhaleb, fe maleh maouha. Oua filia meden metl elge

⁽p) Et septem gemini turbant trepida ostia Nili. Virg.
Perque papyriferi septemstua stumina Nili. Ovid.

again be opened, but, in the present seeble condition of Egypt, they seem more disposed to shut than to open their ports to strangers.

It remains for me to fay fomething concerning the great lake, whose banks we have been coasting. Strabo (q) and the Arabian writers call it Tanis, after the city of that It is now named Menzala: its waters are fost, in the time of inundation, and become brackish as the river retreats within its channel. It was the same under the reign of the Caliphs. " The Nile overflowing at "the fummer folftice, the canals which " discharge themselves into the lake Tanis " make the waters foft; and the reflux of the sea, during winter, renders them salt. "There are islands in the lake, built over like towns, as Nabli, Touna, Samnaa, and Hassan-Elma, which can only be approached by boats." (r) A visit to

fung by the Poets (p) which once were all

Oua behira Tanis aza amed el Nil si el sest azab maouha. Oua aza gezar si elcheta ila aouan, el bah, rhaleb, se maleh maouha. Oua siha meden metl elgezair tatheis elbehira, oua hie Nabli, oua Touna, oua Samnaa, oua Hassan el ma; oua tarik ila ouahada menha ella belsasen. Geograph. Nubiens. sest. 3.

the folishes, which not modern traveller has examined and where manuscripts and where manuscripts and where manuscripts and object of tiquities might be found, seems an object of importance of an endom-galance and another the

About twelve hundred boats, each annually paying fix-and-thirty shillings to the receiver of the Pacha, continually fish on the lake. Among the various species of fish it supplies, some are excellent, such as the queyage, the gemal, the source, the sole, and the gilt-head. The quality of the waters gives their slesh whiteness, and delicacy of slavour: they are sold in Damietta, and the neighbouring towns; and in such abundance that a large sole, or gilt-head, costs but two-spence.

The Bourri, or mullet, is the most beneficial of all to the sishermen, who open the semales, and take out the roe, of which they make boutargue, (s) by salting, and vended it through all Egypt. The various outlets of the lake to the Nile and Mediterranean being full of islands, rushes, insects, and herbs, the river and sea-fish swarm and multiply here infinitely; supplying two thousand sisher and men, and clouds of birds, without apparent

dimi-

a food well known to the failors of Provence.

diminution. Nature has done to much for Egypt that the fecundity of its earth and waters is inconceivable; wherefore has it ever a nursing-mother to neighbouring nations. The waters of the lake are covered with wild-geofe, ducks, teal, divers, and the ibit. I have killed feveral of the latter in the marshes near Roserra; their claws and neck are long, and bodies fmall; alternately black and white, and they feed on fifth, frogs, and reptiles. here also are many cormods rants, the grey and the white heron, fripes, 3 rice-hens, cranes, red-fhanks, &c. oThe Birds !! which most attract notice are the filver wan, proudly of wimming dialigthe waters; theds flamingo, with red and black wings, and the fately pelican; the latter furpaffes the others in its majestic port, height, and shape; and, by its white plumage, rivals the fwan in beauty. It is feen among the birds that croud the lake, rifing above them all, with " its tufted head, like their monarch. Natured has provided in with an exceedingly firong beak to voverpower large fish The Afabsvir have found means to tame and teach it to give them the prey. The only pelican of this species I saw in France was in the Royal tovor lo etofich adt of nare Menagery,

Menagery; and, though long captivity, and a small extent of water, where the bird could not display itself, deprived it of much of its beauty, yet, its proud form and white plumage shewed it still to be a most noble bird.

I have mentioned some of the principal species of birds that frequent the lake, but the variety of their colours, the diversity of their cries, and their prodigious multitudes, I can give you no idea of I Far as the eye can reach they cover its surface. Every minute innumerable flights describe vast circuits in the air, and gently descend on its bosom; others flying the approach of the fishermen, rise in clouds to feek the folitude they love; here a vast family, assembled in a flock, swim, and there others, rifing on the wing, bear their prey in their beak. The continual motion, the vast of waters, gently ruffled by the wind, distant islands, brightened by the sunbeams, boats, cutting the filver waves, banks, shaded by groves, variegated by villages, and decked in eternal verdure, all present an ever changeable, but ever charming prospect, which I have a hundred times enjoyed with unceasing pleasure.

I have the honour to be, &c.

LET-

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inled the LETTER XXV.

Mossingery e 2.14. Endugli jorine month francis

Expedition of Louis IX. to Egypt, from Joinville, and Arabian authors, bis descent near the Giza of Damietta: victory: taking of Damietta: march of the army up the Nile to the canal of Manfourar attempts to crofs it: danger of the passage: and the victory and defeat robich followed. Death of the Comte d'Artois. Taking of Louis IX. and bis whole army. Maffacre of Touran Shah. The ransom of the French king : his departure for Saint John d'Acre, with a portrait of that monarch. It do do do do

To M. L. M. rausident brown out to

eini odanotes Bilbis zidocumit. Damietta. A HERE fend you, Sir, the expedition of Saint Louis into Egypt, extracted from Joinville and Arabian authors, and verified on the (pot. mail o 7 conscipios la correcci babasi

Louis wintered in the ifle of Cyprus with most of his troops, the remainder was to join him at the general rendezvous before Damietta. He salled on Whitsun-Monday from Limazo, accompanied by eighteen hundred VOL. I. veslels.

vessels, great and small, the most formidable squadron the Mediterranean had beheld fince the Perfians. The sea seemed covered with thips to a vast extent; and, during the passage, the prince of the Morea and the duke of Burgundy joined the royal fleet, which in four days anchored in the road of Damietta. Nejem Eddin, of the race of the Ayoubites, then governed Egypt and Syria. Learned in the trade of arms, by the wars he had fustained against the Crusaders, Charefmians, and inhabitants of Damascus, and the victories he had gained over these enemies, which had confirmed his power, and established his authority among the soldiers; equally politic and brave, as capable of wielding the sceptre as the sword; himself dictating orders to his ministers for the interior government of his kingdom, and answering the petitions his subjects presented, while he formed the plan of a campaign; such, according to Abulfeda, was the king Louis had to combat. When the French monarch arrived at the isle of Cyprus he had quitted Syria; and, foreseeing the storm, which menaced the Mahometans, would burst over Damietta, had added new fortifications to that important important place. Having supplied it with a numerous garrison, provisions, and implements of war, proper to sustain a long siege, he removed to Achmoun Tanis, to observe the enemy's motions. Though dangerously ill, he neglected nothing which might frustrate their designs. Facr Eddin was sent with a considerable body of cavalry, to oppose the landing of the French; and, posting himself near the Giza (t) of Damietta, and the western shore of the Nile, and the sea, he there might easily impede their debarkation.

The Egyptian army, properly drawn up, was feen by the fleet two hundred paces from the shore, with the mingled sounds of drums and trumpets, colours slying, burnished arms, restecting the sun-beams, and a face of war, which awed the bold, and terrified the timid. The king called his barons to consult on what was most expedient, who advised him to wait the coming up of the rest of his

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⁽t) Giza, as I have said, signisses angle, or end. This was the most distant suburb of Damietta, built on the other side the Nile. A mount of stones and rubbish still marks its scite, sacing the small village of Esba. The bridge to Damietta began here: I have carefully observed these places on my various journeys hither, and marked them on the map:

army before he ventured a descent in presence of an enemy so well intrenched. Louis rejected the pusillanimous advice, and observed that the road (u) of Damietta was so exposed that, should a storm rise, the sleet would either be dispersed or driven on shore: he therefore gave orders to land on the morrow morning, and commanded an attack on the Egyptians, should they not result to give battle.

On Friday, the 4th of June, 1249, the boats, with the French army, rowed towards the shore; as they landed the enemy's cavalry sell upon them, but the soldiers, fixing their bucklers in the sand, and presenting their lances, formed a pointed wall. Their resolute countenance cooled the Mahometan impetuosity, and they only galloped about, and threw their javelins. When the king saw the royal standard erected on shore, he jumped from his boat into the sea, and, wading up to the arm-pits, marched sword in hand to the enemy. The French, encouraged by his presence, ran to the attack, and gained

⁽u) The Egyptians had fo flopped up the Nile that the French fleet could not enter; and, the road of Damietta being very dangerous, the determination of Louis was equally prudent and brave.

a bloody victory. Two Emirs were flain; which loss, and a descent so bold, so terrified Facr Eddin that he passed the night on the bridge of Damietta, and hastily sled. A panic fear at fight of this feized the garrison, who cowardly abandoned the bulwark of Egypt, and the inhabitants escaped in the dark. The French entered on the morrow without . opposition. Thus a city, which, thirty years before, sustained a siege of sixteen months, was taken in one day. The French flag was displayed from the towers of Damietta on the Sunday, where abundant stores, and vast quantities of arms, were found. The victors, after giving heaven thanks for this fortunate conquest, deliberated whether they should not directly march for Grand Cairo: this would have been their wisest course, the Nile being low, they would have found fewer impediments; but Louis refused to depart before the arrival of the Comte de Poitiers, his brother, who brought the arriere-ban of France.

The taking this important fortress spread consternation through Grand Cairo, whose inhabitants imagined the enemy at their gates. The Sultan's illness increased their terrors; and so great was the alarm that the timid sled toward Upper Egypt, while a

few brave men, animated by the love of their country, joined the army of Nejem Eddin, who, accustomed to the fortune of war, was not discouraged by this unforeseen accident; though he caused fifty of the principal officers, who had so dishonourably quitted their posts, to be beheaded. Facr Eddin he durst not punish thus, fearing to excite a rebellion in the army, where this general was beloved; but he sternly reprimanded him, and, removing to Mansoura, he was active in putting it into a state of defence, at which the whole army laboured. Fixing his camp between the canal of Achmoun and this town, he refolved to wait for the enemy in a post so advantageous. and prevent their passing the river; meantime he fent some squadrons of light horse to harass the French in their camp.

The critical moment was lost in waiting for the Comte de Poitiers, by which the Egyptians profited, fortifying themselves, and assembling their forces. Their panic over, they skirmished round the French camp, which the Arabs entered in the dark, making some prisoners, and slaughtering those they could not carry off. The lord de Courcenay was thus beheaded, after they had killed

led the centinel before his tent. The king then encompassed the camp by a deep fosse, and made the archers mount guard at night. The favourable feafon for marching up the country was wasted, and the swelling of the Nile daily filled the canals which interfected the plain, and rendered the march of an army difficult, in face of an enemy who might impede them at every step. The Legate, according to the custom of the age, ordered processions to hasten the arrival of the Comte de Poitiers, three successive Saturdays, from Damietta to the sea. They were very pompous, the king and the lords walking in them. The prince at length arrived, at which the camp rejoiced. As foon as he had landed. Louis affembled his barons, to advise on their future proceedings; opinions were divided; the Comte Peter of Britanny, and most of the lords, held it best to go, immediately, and befiege Alexandria, one of the keys of Egypt. They observed this city had an excellent harbour, where the fleet might winter in security, and the army, while conquering the country, might, by this means, receive the provisions and succour it should need; adding that, the ships neither being able Z 4 Late

able to enter the Nile nor remain in the road, the French would be in danger of perithing by famine, should any misfortune befall them. These were weighty reasons; but the Comte d'Artois thought differently, and said, he who would kill the serpent should crush his head; and therefore it was best to march immediately for the capital. Louis, rejecting the advice of his barons, sollowed that of his brother, forgetting the obstacles he had to encounter, and departure was resolved on.

Nejem Eddin died the 22d of November, of an abscess in the lungs, in the flower of The Sultana Chegeret Eddour, whose genius was superior to her fex, inflead of finking under the misfortune, employed herself in saving the state. Sending for Facr Eddin, general of the army, and the eunuch, Dgemal Eddin, who possessed great authority, fhe intreated them to aid her in the government, and keep the Sultan's death secret till the arrival of her son Touran Shah, who was in Diar Bekir, and to whom couriers were difpatched. Business was transacted, and orders were fent through Egypt, in the Sultan's name, as if he had still been living ; ereic

living; which policy kept the troops from despondency, and, by concealing the loss of Nejem Eddin from the enemy, prevented them from profiting by fo favourable a circumstance. At the beginning of advent, the French army (x) left the plains of Damietta, and on the 7th of December encamped at Farescour, where it remained to dam up a canal which ran from the river to the lake Menzala. This they easily accomplished, because they raised their mound at its mouth. Facr Eddin fent five hundred horse, well mounted, to dispute the passage of the river, who posted themselves on the opposite shore. Spite of their bold countenance, the Templars croffed first; and, the king having forbid them to attack the enemy, formed their ranks. This caution emboldened the Arabs, who construed it into fear, and attacking the Temgernal Edding who possessed

^(*) Macrizi, who generally agrees with Joinville, fixes, like him, the departure of the French in the month of December, but attributes it to the news of the Sultan's death; whereas, it is certain, from Joinville, the French did not hear of it till they encamped near Manfoura, and that the arrival of the Comte de Poitiers was the reason of this daring and dangerous march during the inundation. Thus historians, reciting facts, are often mistaken in their causes.

plars furiously, slew one of those brave warriors, beside Renaut de Bichiers, their marshal. Indignant at the sight, and incapable of
restraining his ardour, he exclaimed, "Upon
"them, in the name of God; I can bear no
"more." The whole corps immediately was
in motion, and fell on the Egyptians, whose
ranks, unable to sustain the shock, were
broken; part of them were slain, and the
rest driven into the river, where they perished.
This success unfortunately encouraged disobedience, which occasioned all the consequent disgrace of the French.

The army encamped, the same day at Sherimsah, a village not far distant, without molestation from the enemy; its march was slow, because arms of the river, or large rivulets, were continually to be dammed up. It next encamped at Baramoun, and did not appear at Mansoura till the 19th of December. Between the town and the French was the canal of Achmoun, which must be passed to attack the enemy, entrenched on the opposite side; (y) and in order to gain possession of this important place.

A fleet

Joinville, printed at the Louvre, by order of the king,

A fleet of large boats accompanied the army, which it plentifully supplied. They fought by land and water. The canal of Achmoun is as wide as the Saone, and much deeper: its banks in general are fleep, and it was impossible to pass it by swimming in face of the whole force of Egypt. They, therefore, determined to throw up a mound; and balistæ, and other machines, proper to throw stones, were erected, as were two wooden towers, with covered galleries, to protect the workmen; but, instead of beginning at the mouth of the canal, as at Farefcout. they went half a league below, which rendered their enterprize impossible; for, as they advanced, the Egyptians made deep cuts, which, fuddenly bearing the waters against the mound, destroyed, in a moment, the work of feveral weeks. Ill fuccess did not deter the engineers, who obstinately continued the plan they began with. While the work was purfied with zeal, Facr Eddin, secretly, landed troops at Sherimfah, who unexpectedly

the canal of Achmoun is placed beyond Mansoura, contrary to truth, and history. The French must have come from Upper Egypt to beliege this town, if so; of they would not have met with this canal on their passage.

attacked

attacked the camp, and occasioned some disorder. Joinville, who, with the Templars, guarded the Damietta side, hastily armed, and repelled the enemy. This induced Louis to cut a soffe from the canal of Achmoun to the Nile, which gave security to the camp.

The fruitless labours of the mound were continued. The enemy, grown bold, a fecond time attacked the camp, and, after an obstinate fight, were repelled, with lofs, by the Comte d'Anjou. They then fell on the part defended by the Comte de Poitiers, but a vigorous refistance again obliged them to retire. Notwithstanding these repulses the Arab horse continually skirted the army, and seized on all stragglers. The impracticable mound was not completed; the Egyptians showered stones on the workmen, and gave still greater annoyance by the greek-fire, which they feveral times cast, and burnt the towers and galleries, in defiance of the efforts of the French. Joinville, who was on guard one night at the mound, gives a terrifying description of the greek-fire. "The fire they " cast was as large as a tun, with a long burn-"ing tail; its noise in the air was like "thunder, and it feemed a flying dragon. " The

"The light it gave was fo great that I could " fee throughout the camp as clearly as in " open day." This artificial fire confumed the body on which it fell, without a possibility of its being extinguished; yet the burning the towers and galleries made them not abandon an ill-conceived project. Wood was collected, from the boats, to build new works, which underwent the like fate, in spite of the valour of the French. This last misfortune spread desolation through the camp, and all hope of passing the canal was given up. While they deliberated on returning to Damietta, the constable, Hymbert de Beaujeu, came to tell the king a Bedaouin (2) had promifed to discover a ford, if they would give him five hundred befans of gold. Louis consented; the ford was found; and the Duke of Burgundy was left to guard the camp, while the king and his three brothers went to combat the Egyptians. On the 8th of February, 1250, the French cavalry, guided by the Bedaouin, affembled, by day-break, before the ford, two leagues distant from the Nile, and, entering the waters, which were

⁽z) Bedaouin comes from Bedaoui, inhabitant of the Defert; the wandering Arabs are so called.

deep, the (a) horses swam as far as the middle of the canal; but, finding footing, they foon reached the opposite bank; though several were drowned in this dangerous passage; among whom was John of Orleans. Some three hundred Arabs, who defended the pass, were foon put to flight. The king commanded the Templars to lead the van, and the Comte d'Artois, with his corps to fustain them. But this prince, feeing the enemy fly, could not moderate his ardour, and purfued. The grand mafter of the Templars fent to beg that he would wait, for that it was his right to march first, conjuring the prince not to dishonour him by taking a post confided to his valour. Without daring to reply, the Comte listened to the remonstrances; but, unfortunately, Fourcaut du Merne, his brave fquire, who held the bridle of his horse, was deaf, and, not hearing what was faid to the prince, continued advancing, and calling aloud "Upon them!" Perceiving this, and thinking their honour at stake, if they did not hold

⁽a) Joinville and Macrizi both fay the Nile was then at its highest, which is extraordinary, for that was the season when the waters should have been low. Arabian history, indeed, contains similar examples, and the inundation has been known a month or two later than usual. their

their rank, the Templars spurred their horses, and gallopped toward the enemy. Terrified at this unforeseen attack, the Egyptians fled on all fides, abandoning their camp; while these brave, but imprudent, cavaliers, vanquishing all who refisted, came to Mansoura, forced one of the gates, and entered the city. Facr Eddin, who was then at the bath, scarce had time to dress himself and mount a horse, without saddle or bridle. Collecting some of his slaves to oppose the torrent, he and they were flain. So fudden was the attack, and the rout fo rapid, that the Comte d'Artois and the Templars were in Mansoura before a part of the army had passed the ford. Had the troops been all united, and the victors sustained, the defeat would have been general, and Mansoura, and, perhaps, all Egypt, conquered. But there was a space of two leagues between the van and the rear of the French army. Bibars Elbondoux Dari, chief of the Baharites, (b) don marking was faw

⁽b) Nejem Eddin had besieged Napoli, a town in Syria, where, his troops slying, the Baharite slaves sustained the shock of the enemy, and gave the prince time to escape. This service gained his considence, and, succeeding

faw the error, and profited by it like an able general, rallying the fugitives, affembling the flower of the Egyptian cavalry, and throwing himself between the city and the main body of the French to prevent all communication. While he fought divided troops, and stopped the passage of Louis the Comte de Poitiers and the Comte d'Anjou, the Egyptians, animated by his example, took courage, and attacked the too hasty cavaliers, who were combating in the narrow streets of Mansoura. They were excellently seconded by the inha-

ceeding to the throne of Egypt, foon after, instead of his brother, Melec Eladal Seif Eddin, he bestowed many favours on them, and raised them to the first employments. Quitting the castle of Salah Eddin, the former residence of the Sultans, to inhabit that he had built in the isle of Raouda, opposite Old Cairo, he appointed his favourite flaves to guard it; and, as the Arabs call great rivers Bahar, or fea, they took the name of Baharites, or maritime. Having affaffinated Touran Shah, the last of the family of the Ayoubites, they reigned over Egypt and Syria a hundred and thirty-fix years, and had twenty-They were Turks, originally, bought of feven kings. Syrian merchants, by Nejem Eddin, and were dethroned, in their turn, by the Mamluks, or Circassian slaves, in the year 784 of the Hegyra, who formed a new dynasty, which continued till the conquest of Egypt by Selim, in the year 923 of the Hegyra.

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briants who showered stones on them from the tops of their houses. The French sunk under the general affault; two thirds of the Templars, and near three hundred knights, perished; the Comte d'Artois, after performing wonders, fell, covered with wounds. amidft a heap of dead, an unhappy victim to his own disobedience of orders: with him fell most of his officers. Joinville, and several brave knights, took refuge in an old house, valoroully defending themselves against hosts of enemies, but with little hope of escaping death, most of them being dangerously wounded. In this extreme peril, Erart de Severey. who had been cut in the face with a fabre. and bled excessively, said, "Knights, if you " will shield the memory of me and my "descendants from all blame, I will go and " demand aid from the Comte d'Anjou, whom "I perceive yonder in the plain." All applauding his resolution, he mounted his horse. galloped through fquadrons of the enemy, and came to the prince; who, hearing the news he brought, went to the relief of Joinville and the rest. Thus were they indebted for life to this gentleman; who, almost dying, dreaded a dishonourable grave for having Vot. I. abandoned A a

abandoned his companions, though it was only to bring them fuccour.

The corps which the king commanded advanced on the plain, and fustained every attack of the Turkish and Arab cavalry. Mounted on a noble horse he appeared a Hero amidst his squadrons; his helmet was gilt with gold, his fword was German, and his arms highly burnished; his fortitude, for the carnage was great, inspired valour. The armies were fo closely engaged they could only use the mace, the battle-ax, and sabre. While he found employment for the best of the enemy's horse, John de Valeri advised him to turn to the right, toward the river, that he might be fustained by the Duke of Burgundy, and not furrounded, which counfel his generals approved. The officer who bore the Royal Standard received orders accordingly; this movement exposed the advanced troops, and scarcely had they retreated a step before the Comte de Poitiers, and the Duke of Flanders, fent to tell the king they were loft, if he did not face about and give them time to join him. He halted, and, just then, Hymbert de Beaujeu came to inform him the Comte d'Artois, encompassed by enemies.

enemies, still defended himself in a house of Mansoura, but that his death was certain, if not directly relieved. Tell him, faid the monarch, I follow you, and, instantly, the constable, Joinville, and some cavaliers, left the main body, and hastened toward the city. Scarcely had they proceeded a quarter of a league before a large corps of the enemy, coming between them and the king, prevented him from advancing, and Joinville, feeing it impossible to join the main body, or gain Mansoura, where the Turks were victorious, proposed to the constable to post themselves on a bridge over a large rivulet, and prevent the enemy from attacking the French in the The offer was accepted, and fix cavaliers undertook to keep the pass. Mean time, the different corps of the christian army, divided and furrounded by the mahometans, were vigorously driven back, toward the canal; a great number of cavaliers, thinking all was loft, hastily threw themselves in, but their fatigued horses could not gain the oppofite shore, and, in a moment, the waters were covered with arms and drowning men. The king faw his life in danger; abandoned by his troops, fix Turks, feizing his horse's A a 2 bridle.

bridle, were leading him prisoner; but, with unshaken fortitude, collecting all his strength, and using his excellent arms with agility and address, he, alone, vanquished his fix enemies. This heroic action stopped the sugitives; ashamed to forsake a king who so bravely defended himself, his knights crowded round him, and, as if the prodigy they had beheld had given them new powers, suriously renewed the combat, and repelled the victors.

Joinville and Hymbert, who still kept their post, saw the Comte Peter of Britanny coming from Mansoura, his face covered with blood, heading a fquadron in which both officers and foldiers were most of them dangeroufly wounded, and purfued full speed by the Turks. The conftable and his small troop flew to their support, and robbed the enemy of their prize. Joinville invited the Comte de Soiffons, his kinfman, to stay and guard the bridge with him, and prevent the mahometans from taking the French in the rear. This brave knight accepted the offer, and Hymbert, seeing them determined to guard this important post, went for a reinforcement. Peter de Neville, surnamed

named Cayet, joined them; and these three knights, their lances in the reft, and covering themselves with their shields, defended the pass against every attack. Two of the valiant guards of the king, named William de Boon and John de Gomaches, kept before them, nor could the Turks make them retreat a step. The arms of these generous warriors were stuck with darts. Peter de Neville received a blow on the head from a mace; Joinville was wounded by five javelins, and his horse by fifteen. While thus exposed to a thousand perils, the Comte de Soissons, incapable of fear, pleasantly said to Joinville, " The hallooing " of this mob, Seneschal, is fine sport; " by god's quoif (it was his usual oath) " we'll talk of this day in our ladies cham-" bers." Gallantry we find always accompanied French valor.

The constable kept his word with the heroes of the bridge; brought them succour toward the evening, and drove off the enemy. They then joined the king, who, as well as his soldiers, had sought all day, without eating. Night coming on, both armies retired. The Sieur de Chatillon commanded

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the rear guard, and part of the French army, masters of the Egyptian camp and their war machines, there passed the night. The other part, under the Duke of Burgundy, was encamped north of the canal. The Comte d'Artois and many a lord lost their lives on this day, which had feen the taking of Mansoura, and the total defeat of the Egyptians, had the attack by the French been general, as the Arab writers themselves confess (c). But, unfortunately, the King's orders having been disrespected, the French were divided, and the address of Bibars prevented them from re-uniting. While guarding the bridge, Joinville says he saw many a pretty gentleman flying, full speed, whom no calling could stop: but that Guion de Malvoisin, with a company of knights, his kinsmen, and the Comte Peter of Britanny, returned gloriously, and honourably, from Mansoura, where they had fignalized their courage.

⁽c) Macrizi, who has well described the expedition of Louis, owns Mansoura were lost, and the Mahometans totally defeated, had the French attacked in a body, and not by divisions.

On the morning of that memorable day, they had flown a pigeon, (d) from Manfoura, to carry the news, to Grand Cairo, of the death of Facr Eddin, and the flight of the Egyptians. The letter spread consternation, which the fugitives augmented: the gates of the city were open all night for their reception; but, on the morrow, another pigeon informed them of the success of Bibars, and the Baharites. Gladness succeeded forrow, the citizens congratulated each other in the streets, and public rejoicings were made.

The enemy were armed by fun rifing, and made an irruption into the camp to regain their machines from the French. The attack was on the fide guarded by Joinville, who, hearing the cry, to arms, rose; but he and hisfoldiers were so stiff with their wounds they could neither wear helmet nor cuirass. They

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marched,

⁽d) This custom, which long subsisted in the east, is now lost; though, not long since, the merchants of Syria used thus to inform their correspondents of the arrival of ships at the port of Alexandria, whence, letting a pigeon sly, the news reached Aleppo in five or six hours. The Caliphs had established this rapid mode of intelligence from Cairo to Bagdad.

marched, however, to the enemy, who, having forced the van guard, were near feizing their balistæ. The king sent a reinforcement, under de Chatillon, and the Egyptians were driven beyond the pallifades. Eight Turks, at some distance, well armed, intrenched behind a mount of stones, and fustained by a body of cavalry, shot their random arrows into the camp, and wounded many of the soldiers. Joinville was resolved to attack them, during the night, and destroy their intrenchment; but John de Vassey, one of his priests, had less patience; he put on an iron helmet, and a cuirass, and, taking a large scymitar under his arm, walked toward them. They paid little attention at the fight of a fingle man, and he infensibly approached; when near enough, he drew his scymitar, ran upon them, and, with his two handed strokes, put all the eight to flight, which valorous action rendered him famous throughout the army.

Touran Shah arrived, and the Sultana, whose fruitful genius had found resources, and held the reins of government in times so difficult, remitted them to the new Sultan, who came to Mansoura, appeared at the head

head of his troops, and shewed them the coat of mail of the Comte d'Artois, affirming it was that of the King. " Brave " musfulmen, added he, the enemy have " loft their chief; redouble your efforts. " they cannot withstand your valour: let " us make a general affault to-morrow, force " their camp, and exterminate these French " from the earth." The foldiers loudly applauded, and prepared to do their duty. Louis, informed by his spies of the meditated attack, commanded each chief, at day-break, to dispose his battalions, in good order, behind the pallifade of stakes they had fixed to prevent the enemy's cavalry from penetrating the camp; which orders were obeyed. At fun-rifing, the Sultan was feen, on a stately steed, ranging his troops from the canal of Achmoun to the river, the cavalry in the van, the infantry in the rear, and strengthening his lines, in proportion to the enemies he had to face. His troops thus prepared, he difplayed his colours, about noon, and founded the charge (a fearful and confused noise of drums and trumpets) and the Egyptian army affailed the French on all fides. The Comte d'Anjou,

d'Anjou, at the front of the camp, next Mansoura, was the first attacked. The foot advanced, and, having thrown their greekfire, the horse succeeded, and, forcing a way with their fabres, entered the intrenchments. Most of the French cavalry were dismounted at the battle of Mansoura, and the prince fought on foot with his foldiers. The number of the enemy, their superiority as cavalry, and the dreadful artificial fire they employed, threw his battalion into disorder. and, spite of his valour, he was in danger of being taken or killed. This news being brought the King, he flew to rescue his brother with what cavaliers he had, and penetrated so far into the croud that his horse's bridle was covered with the greekfire, and himself in danger of being burnt. The Egyptians, however, could not stand the shock of the King and his generous knights, but retreated in disorder.

Next the Comte d'Anjou were the crufaders, commanded by Guy d'Ibelin, and Baldwin his brother, near whom was Walter de Chatillon, at the head of his squadron. These two corps, full of brave knights, and excellent excellent cavalry, repelled every affault, and remained firm, not receding a step.

William de Sonnac, grand master of the Templars, having before lost most of his knights, fortified that part of the camp he guarded with a double pallisade, to which the Egyptians set fire, and, rushing through the slames, assailed him with fury. The valorous Templars, though covered with darts and arrows, formed an impenetrable rampart, and their grand master, who had lost an eye, at Mansoura, received a wound in the other of which he died. Joinville asserts that behind the ground they occupied was a large space so covered with javelins as to hide the surface.

Guion de Malvoisin, who commanded a battalion near the Templars, defended himself so well that the enemy could gain no advantage; but the brave chief was near being consumed by the greek-fire.

Comte William of Flanders and his forces extended along the river: he boldly received the Egyptians, repelled them furiously, put all to flight who opposed him, and killed a great number. Walter de la Horgne here fignalized

fignalized his courage by high deeds of arms. The Comte de Poitiers was next in order; but, having only infantry, his troops were broken, the camp penetrated, and the prince feized. The women and butchers, feeing him led prisoner, began to shout, armed themfelves with hatchets, fell upon the victors, drove them from the entrenchments, and recovered the king's brother.

Jocerant de Brancion, one of the most valiant knights in the French army, defended that part of the camp next the canal: his foldiers were all on foot, he alone on horseback. The Arabs, several times, broke his ranks, but the brave Brancion, with fabre in hand, continually rallied his men and repulfed them. He and his foldiers, however, must have fallen, had not Henry de Briefine, from the Duke of Burgundy's camp, annoyed the enemy with his cross-bow men, over the canal, every time they renewed the attack. De Brancion had been in fix-and-thirty combats and battles, where he had always borne away the prize, and on this day, not the most inglorious of his life, received a great number of wounds of which he died.

Night

Night separated the combatants, and, on the morrow, the King affembled his Barons to confole them for their losses, and excite constancy. " Gentlemen," faid he, " let us return " Heaven thanks, and take courage: we have " paffed the canal, driven the enemy from " their camp, and, without cavalry, opposed " the whole power of the Sultan." Difcouraged by refistance so obstinate, Touran Shah, in fact, despaired of forcing the French camp, and determined to starve them. Their army was abundantly supplied by the provisions collected at Damietta, which were brought to them by the fmall fleet they had on the river, and the Sultan properly judged that, could he cut off the communication between the camp and Damietta, he might conquer those by famine which he could not by force. Every means accordingly were employed; a great number of boats was affembled, unrigged, transported on the backs of camels near the canal of Mehalla(e), and concealed in a proper

⁽e) We learn from Abulfeda there were feveral towns and villages in Egypt called Mehalla; the place here meant is three leagues below Mansoura, where there

place for an ambuscade. The French fleet unfuspectingly was, as usual, bringing provisions, when, approaching the isle where the Sultan's gallies were hidden, the Egyptians fuddenly appeared, furprized their enemies, attacked them furiously, furrounded them, killed about a thousand foldiers, and took fifty large loaded boats. The Egyptians thus become masters of the river, there was no longer any communication between the camp and Damietta; and scarcity soon succeeded, with disease, its dreadful attendant. The wounded, wanting nutriment, perished, and the dead bodies, floating on the river and the canal, corrupted the air; a destructive epidemic malady ravaged the army, and few of those who were attacked escaped death. Their flesh dried on their bones. their livid skin was spotted black, and their

there is a small canal, the mouth of which is hidden by an isle, which seems a proper place for an ambuscade. In the edition of Joinville printed at the Louvre, a note is cited, in which Macrizi mentions Mehalla, and they have erroneously supposed he meant Mehalla Kebira, capital of one of the provinces of the Delta, and six leagues above Mansoura. The French must have had their provisions from Upper Egypt, could a sleet at this place have intercepted their convoy. gums were so prodigiously swelled they could take no food till the excrescent slesh was cut away. All who underwent this operation shricked most lamentably. Such was the condition of an army lately so flourishing. The Arabian authors agree with Joinville in giving a terrifying description of the deplorable state of the French, encompassed by enemies, and preyed on by all the horrors of famine and disease.

The remaining vessels from Damietta, on the 7th of March 1250, made a new attempt to bring supplies to the army, but were all taken, except one, belonging to the Comte of Flanders, which so valiantly defended itself that it forced its way to the camp, where it brought the news of the defeat of the two fleets, and the impossibility of receiving fuccour from Damietta while the gallies of the enemy swarmed on the river. This added to the consternation and afflictions of the French; and Louis, after advising with his Barons, resolved to retreat over a wooden bridge they had thrown across the canal, and join the Duke of Burgundy. That the enemy might not profit by this motion.

motion, a wall was thrown up, fome diffance from the bridge, behind which the troops filed off. The baggage went first, then the King and his corps; De Chatillon commanded the rear guard, and the whole Egyptian army fell upon him; but their impetuolity was repelled by the firmness with which they were received: enemy however fucceeded enemy, and a part of the army, pressed between the wall and the canal, and affaulted with the greek-fire and javelins, was in the utmost peril. The valour of the Comte d'Anjou faved them, and repulsed the Egyptians. Geoffrey de Muffenbourg, who fought by his fide, diftinguished himself by heroic deeds, and merited the palm of that day.

The French, encamped behind the canal of Achmoun, were in fafety from the sword, but not from contagion and famine, to which Louis, as well as his soldiers, was subjected. The camp daily became a vast cemetery, where death selected his victims. A truce now only could save the remains of the army, and this was proposed to the Sultan: ministers were mutually appointed, and the French king

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king offered to restore Damietta, (f) on condition that the knights of Jerusalem should be reinstated in the places they had lost in Syria. The parties not agreeing, the conferences were broken off, and the French had but one resource, which was to gain Damietta. It was determined to sly, on Tuesday night, the

(f) The Crusaders attacked Damietta in the year 1218, and took it, after a fiege of fixteen months. Sultan Melek Elmakel retreated, two days march from the city, and encamped at the angle formed by the canal of Achmoun and the Nile, where Mansoura was built. The Crusaders followed, and encamped on the opposite bank, facing the Egyptians, who intercepted the communication between the European army and Damietta, and the latter offered to reflore the city, on condition Jerusalem, Ascalon, and Tiberius were ceded to them, which proposal was rejected. The Sultan made a cut from the Nile, then at its greatest height, and inundated the enemies camp, so that they were up to the middle in water, and, had it not been for a causeway, must have been all drowned. Melek then threw bridges over the canal of Achmoun, and fent troops, who feized the mound, and the Crufaders, burning their tents, and war machines, would have returned to Damietta, but found it impossible. They then offered to restore the city, and peace was concluded, on that condition, in 1221 .- Thus far Macrizi in his history of the Arab dynasties. Louis, encamped in the fame place, offered the fame conditions, but was not equally fortunate.

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eth of April; and the king commanded his brothers and the engineers to cut the cables which held the bridge over the canal of Achmoun. When it was dark, the troops began to file off toward Damietta, and those whom descended the river in boats, among whom was Joinville. Louis, though weakened by a dysentery, would neither forsake his troops nor be the first in flight; on the contrary, he kept with the rear-guard, commanded by de Chatillon; Geoffry de Sergines, of all his officers, was the only one who refused to abandon him in this dangerous post. At day-break, the Egyptians perceiving the army had decamped, hotly purfued. Notwithstanding the politive orders of the king, the bridge had not been destroyed, but they passed it; and the cavalry, full gallop, came up with the French at Farescour. The rear-guard was first attacked, where Geoffry de Sergines most intrepidly defended his king, admirably wielding his mace and fword, and repelling affailants. He led him into a house in the village, were fatigue and difeafe made him faint in the arms of a tradeswoman of Paris; recovering, he had the consolation to learn that & d 8. enemies,

that some five knights assembled round his person, desended him valiantly against the Sultan's forces, fighting desperately at the entrance of the village, where the French, inspired by the hope of faving a king they adored, did wonders, and disputed for victory. (g) Amidst the consist, a traitor, named Marcel, called, with a lond voice, " Knights, the king commands you to yield; " let him not perish by your obstinacy." Hearing this, they laid down their arms, and the king, his brothers, and the whole army, were taken prisoners. Walter de Chatillon had alone defended a street against a host of foes; completely armed, and well mounted, with a most tremendous sword, as the Egyptians appeared, he flew to the rencounter, crying, Chatillon! Knight! Where are my brave men? and vanquishing those that faced him, turned about to attack the affailants in After killing a great number of the rear.

⁽g) The Arab authors agree with Joinville, the King, by flying first, might have escaped to Damietta, but, though this would have been most prudent, the generous prince resuled to leave so many brave men exposed to the enemy, and his courage made choice of the most dangerous post.

enemies, planted with arrows, exhausted by fatigue, he fell, and they cut off his head. The king and the prisoners were conducted to Manfourage nor had those in the hoats a better fate; they fell into the enemy's hands, who forced some of them into the river. Joinville escaped death by a kind of miracle, being fo feeble he could fcarcely ftand upright. They were going to behead him, had not a generous Arab, pitying his fate, taken him in his atms, and exclaimed, with all his force, He is the king's coufin. This faved his life, and he, with many more lords, were taken to Manfoura, Ralph de Wanon, who was in the fame boat, had been hamftrung in a former battle, and could not stand: an old Arab had compassion on him, and assisted him in all the wants of nature resident danied grichingon

Touran Shah sent fifty robes to the king and his lords, who put them on, except Louis, who refused, haughtily, saying he was sovereign of a kingdom as great as Egypt, and it was derogatory for him to appear cloathed in the robes of another monarch. The Sultan invited him to a banquet he had prepared, but, equally inflexible, he let them understand he perceived the Sultan's aim in this politeness,

faifgue, the fell, and they cut average sidaot

or Tenulthousand French were in chains. Their number embarraffed Touran Shah. and the barbarian, dinightly, Had four or five hundred taken from prifon, all of whom were beheaded, who refused to embrace Mahometanilm, by Seif Eddin, the cruel minister of his vengeance. 3 Peter of Britanny was appointed to treat of the release of Louis and the prisoners. The Egyptians required them to restore Damietta, and the places they held in Syria; the latter article was rejected. The Mahometans broke off the treaty, and, endeavouring to effect their purpose by fear, sent armed men where the king and his brothers were guarded, who, flourishing their fabres, threatened to firike off their heads. Finding these menaces ineffectual, land that nothing could induce a king whose foul was superior to adversity to commit an act of injuffice, the negociation was renewed. The Egyptians demanded 100,000 befans (about 20,000 l.) and to have Damietta restored for the deliverance of the king and prisoners; to which Louis consented, provided his queen should approve the treaty. The B b 3 Mahometans neis

Mahometans appearing surprized at this clause, he added, the queen is my mistress, without whose consent I will do nothing. Toursu Shah, astonished the king so readily should grant a sum so considerable, wishing to seem generous, declared he would remit a fifth part of the ransom, and the parties agreed, and their oaths mutually exchanged, the Sultan commanded them to put the king and prisoners on board sour great vessels, and take them to Damietta.

While the articles were preparing, Joinville and feveral Lords, imprisoned in a distant tent, faw a company of youth, armed with feymetars, headed by an old man, enter whom, knowing the nightly executions, they supply posed the ministers of death. The old manasked them, in a grave voice, whether they believed God had died and rifen again for them. They answered in the affirmative. Then be not discouraged, replied this grave personage, remember your sufferings for him equal not what he suffered for you, and if he had the power to rife from the dead he will deliver you when he shall think fit. So say-no ing he retired, impressing their minds with aftonishment, and reviving hope in their

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hearts: Soon after they learnt the treaty was Mich reftored them to freedombbe and

Touran Shah had brought with him, from Diar Bekir, some half a hundred courtiers. who had gained his confidence; and the bears ginning of his reign was fignalized by the degradation of his father's fervants, and the rife of his favourites. The former had fucdiso ceffively arrived at their offices and dignities by real services, and were suddenly stripped, no that these new intruders might occupy the most important posts. The grandees and officers of the army were disgusted at this injuffice; but the bad policy of the Sultan did not ftop here; he was indebted for the victory at Manfoura, and the defeat of the French, to the valour of the Baharites. Far from rewarding, and thus gaining the affection of a corps Nejam Eddin had formed, formidable for its valour and power, he took their employments from them, and gave them to understand they should be disbanded.139 Such imprudence did but excite their indignation : hate brooded in the heart, and vengeance only waited for a pretext, which the Sultan foon gave them. During the negocian ations, he had retired to Farefcour, the B b 4 theatre hearts

theatre of his victory, where a wooden tower was erected on the bank of the river, together with magnificent tents; and here he encamped, waiting the restoration of Damietta, Intoxicated by fuccess and flattery, he indulged in debauchery, and every kind of voluptuousness. Gold glides like water from the hands of fuch a king: his expences became excessive, and to supply his pleasures, he demanded restitution of his father's treafores of the Sultana Chegeret Eddour, with threats, if not immediately fatisfied. This ambitious woman faw the fall of herfelf or the tyrant inevitable, went to the chief of the Baharites, enumerated the fervices the had rendered the state in its day of distross, the effeem in which the held that corps, and the ingratitude of Touran Shah, ending by imploring their protection against a king who had vowed implacable hatred to the friends of Nejam Eddin. This was sufficient to rouze the vengeance of the Baharites, a to which they were but too much inclined. She was promised redress, and the death of the Sultan fworn. The very fame day, Bibars, having seduced his attendants, entered his tent, while he was at table, made a Aroke

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Groke at him with a febre, which would have cloven his fkull and he not parried, it with his hand; his fingers were cut off, and he halfily fled, purfued by the affaffins, into the tower on the bank of the Nile, and thut the door. The French, then, proceeding to Damietta, having stopped at this place, were witnesses of a most shocking fcene. The murderers, finding they could not gain admission, set fire to the tower. In vain did Touran Shah cry he would abdicate the throne, and only require to return to Diar Bekir: they were deaf to his interceffions and groans; furrounded by the flames, he leaped from the top of the tower, but, a nail catching his mantle, he remained ful pended; the barbarians fell upon him, hacked him with their fabres, and cast him into the river, near the boat in which Joinville was. This horrid transaction passed in sight of the Egyptian army, who made not a fingle effort to fave their king, fo highly were they irritated by his imprudence. Thus miserably perished the last Sultan of the family of the Ayouhites, established in Egypt bars, having feduced his attentible dalerey After the maffacre the Sultana was de-

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clared Queen; the first flave who reigned over Egypt during the reign of the Arabs. Some fay the was a Turk others an Armenian whe had been bought by Nejem Eddin whom the fo captivated, that he never fuffered her to be from him, but took her to his wars. Money was coined in her name, and Emir Azed Eddin Aibah, the Turcoman, was named Generalifimo (i). woll Bhe gabro I vaken

(i) The Sultana espoused him after the had reighed three months, and divested herfelf of fovereign power in his favour. He was the first Sultan of the dynasty of Baharites. After reigning feven years, the, perceiving he was tired of enjoying the title of King, only, while the had the authority, and that he was inclined to other amours, had him affaffinated, though to please her, he had divorced a wife whom he loved. Nour Eddin, the fon of this unhappy wife, conceived a violent hatred against the Sultana, bribed her women to murder her, and her corpfe, thrown naked into a ditch, remained three days unburied, but at last was entombed in the sepulchre she had prepared. Nour Eddin, the fecond Baharite Sultan, was affaffinated in two years time, and succeeded by Bibars, who reigned, gloriously, seventeen years. The last of the Baharites who reigned in Egypt, Ishref Hadge, voluntarily abdicated royalty. Barkouk, fucceeding him, began the dynasty of the Mamluks, or Circassian slaves, who, under two-and-twenty kings, governed Egypt 121 years. Thoman Bey was the last, whom Selim caused to be hung under one of the gates of Cairo. the Barraly believed they were only to be

The laffaffins entered the flips that contain tained the French prisoners, and he who had ended Touran Shah, with his hand Milly recking with blood, faid to Louis, What wile thou give me for having rid thee of thy enemy ? The king made no reply? Se- of veral of these wretches leapt sabre in hand on board the galley where Joinville was and many Lords, and, flourishing their weapons, and threatened to strike off their heads. The tragedy they had beheld had terrified thefe brave knights, and, not less pious than valiant, thinking all was over, fell on their knees before a Trinitarian friar, and, all together, began to confess their fins. The croud on being great, and the priest unable to hear them all at once, Guy d'Ybelin, constable of Cyprus, confessed to Joinville, who replied with admirable naiveté, According to the power God has given me I give thee absolution. Bayard, thus, the knight, without fear or reproach, mortally wounded, confessed himself under an oak to his squire. These Lords, however, were only thrown pell-mell into the hold, where, diseased as they were, they passed a miserable night, in expectation of an end more miserable; for they firmly believed they were only to be released

released from their dungeon to be put to death. Abou Ali being named to treat with the King of France, after many debates they renewed their former agreement, and it was stipulated that, before leaving the Nile, Louis should pay eight hundred pounds towards the ransom, evacuate Damietta, and discharge the remaining sum in the city of St. John d'Acre. Oaths were mutually exchanged, and the French Lords taken from their captivity, and, once more, allowed to hope their missortunes would have an end.

The difgrace of the King and army reached the Queen, and overwhelmed her with affliction. She was pregnant, and the news was brought three days before delivery. Her terrified fancy pictured the enemy at the gates of Damietta, where the had been left. She faw them enter the city with fire and fword, and her agitations became so violent that it was thought she would have expired. A knight, eighty years of age, who devoted himself to her service, lest her neither day nor night. The wretched Queen started in sleep, imagining the barbarians were forcing her apartment, and the old knight, who held her hand while she slept, clasping it, then faid, Fear nothing, Madam, you are

are fafe. She had not flept a moment, again, before the awoke, thricking, and he again endeavoured to appeale her fears. That the might fid herself of these dreadful ideas, the queen commanded all to leave her chamber, except Her guardian; then, falling on her knees to him, the faid, Promise me, in knight, to grant the favour I shall re-" quest," he promised, and she continued. I conjure you, by the faith you have " fworn, should the Saracens take the city, " you will cut off my head before I fall minto their hands. Madam, replied the knight, this, be certain, I thalf wil-" lingly perform; I had indeed thought on the fubject, and was refolved rather to take your life than fuffer them to feize "your person." This promise gave tranquillity to the Queen, and the day after this affecting fcene the was delivered of a fon, named John Triftan, (the forrowful) alluding to the unhappy times in which he was both. The fame day they informed her the Genoese, the Pisans, who were in the pay of France, and the townsmen, intended to fly from Damietta. She fent for the principal of them to her bedfide, and, ignidesw faid, Fear nothing, Madain, you weeping, faid, "For the love of God, gen" flemen, do not abandon the city; it will
be the deftruction of the King and the
"whole army; have pity on the infant you
"fee lying befide me." They replied, they
must die of hunger; and she, immediately,
ordered all the provisions in the city to be
purchased and sent them, saying they should
be maintained at the King's expense. Thus
she saved Damietta, the last resource of the
French.

The ships in which Louis and the other prisoners were, being come near the bridge of Damietta, the King fent for the Queen and Princesses on board. On the appointed day, all the French quitted the city, and embarked in various thips, and the Egyptians with them, who, being drunk, inhumanly killed the fick whom their treaty obliged them to take care of till they came to St. John d'Acre. This by no means bespoke upright intentions, on their part, and, in fact, a violent dispute had arisen among themfelves; the one part infifting on murdering the King, and all the prisoners, and the other in keeping their stipulations; adding, that should the Egyptians thus violate digneth,

late their oaths they would be held the most infamous people on earth ... The contest increased, and they were a whole day in doubt. Mean time the yeffels in which the unhappy captives were had been fent a league above Damietta, nor were they left ignorant that they were intended to be maffacred. At last, Aibah, the Turcoman, hoping to divide the remainder of the ranfom which was to be paid at St. John d'Acre with the Baharites, (k) drew his fabre, and fwore he never would fuffer the faith of treaties thus to be violated. This terminated the difference, and they agreed to restore the French to freedom. While the Egyptians meditated this abominable act, the King was in high wrath against a Lord, who told him, that, in paying the promifed fum, they had been wronged of four hundred pounds, which the king ordered to be restored them, although they had already failed in a part of their engagements. At

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of losing the ransom preserved the King and all the prisoners: the barbarians, who so lately had drenched their hands in the blood of their Sultan, would not have spared one of their enemies, had not their interest opposed their cruelty.

length, every thing being settled, the King, his brothers, and Queen, embarked for St. John d'Aere, in 1250, eleven months and some days after the taking of that city.

Gemel Eddin, an Arab historian, gives the following portrait of Louis. "The King possessed a fine person, understanding, for titude, and religion. His good qualities attracted the veneration of the Christians, who had great considence in him: he might have escaped from the Egyptians by slight, either on horseback or in a boat, but the generous king never would abandon his army."

I have the honour to be, &c.

ednik om velbar bittille betre

This work was published at two different times, and in three volumes, the first of which ended here, except a short letter, expressive of the author's hopes and sears concerning the success of his work. This is omitted, as likewise is the beginning of the next letter, being only a short complimentary introduction to the second volume, neither necessary nor interesting, which might confuse, but could not inform the reader. An interval of some months elapsed between writing of this and the following letter, during which the author returned to Grand Cairo. T.

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be producted that Queenly employable for houbeing party and some and and and their lime have after the releasement their star and their

From Old Cairo to Tamieh: Leave Fostat in the month of November, the Mosque Atar Ennahi described, and resections on the pilgrimages made thither. State of the plain of Egypt at this season of the year: comparisons between the pyramids, the tomb of Mausoleus, and the Morai of Otaheite. Details on the plain of Mummies, the slints of Egypt and the Dachbour or Acanthos. Arrival at Tamieh in the province of Fayoum.

We are now and promise Dahab, the

goldies the Grand we about the fairle,

It is now November, and the favourable feafon to visit the Said (a); the heat is temperate, and the flooded canals permit us to visit the inland country by water. Employed we, therefore, on this river, which, with its multiplied branches, for the space of two

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Cc

hundred

a) All Upper Egypt from Old Caiso to Affouan, or Syene, is called Said by the Arabs.

hundred leagues, fertilizes that valley where the wife and the great have, for three thoufand years, gone to admire the ruins of a people who exerted every faculty to make their works immortal.

We leave Old Cairo, the north wind drives us rapidly against the current, the waters have receded from the hills, but the low parts are still inundated, though the majestic Nile, silently, and gently, keeps retiring; verdure and harvest follow his footsteps, and intessantly spring where he so lately trod. Here cucumbers and water melons are planted, and there the plough lightly surrows the surface, easily drawn by oxen, under the care of a single man. Dourra and corn already cover the high lands.

We are now passing Jeziret Dahab, the golden isle, a meadow abounding in cattle, on which is a small village. On our lest we leave the grand mosque Atar Ennabi, built on the bank of the river, much frequented by the inhabitants of Cairo, and the object of a famous pilgrimage. It contains a stone on which the Mussulmen believe the marks of the feet of Mahomet are impressed; for this reason they call it Atar Ennabi, the vestige

vertige of the prophet. The officiating Sheik takes care to encourage this plous faith, and to publish the miracles performed; for, as his wealth wholly centers in this felic, he preferves it as a thing most precious, and covers it with a lumptuous veil, which he lifts up for devotees, from whom he expects a small present. The following account I had from a Lady of Cairo, the wife of a French merchant (b), who has lived forty years in Egypt. Registront and would have here

I had often heard of Atar Ennabi, and its miracles; and was defirous to fee this famous flone. My drefs, exactly refembling that of the Turkish women, made me supposed one of them; and I went to the mosque at an hour when there were not many people. I requested the Sheik to shew me the relic, and two Turkish women, of consequence, entering at the same time, testified the like defire. He uncovered it, and, after burning some rich persumes, and reciting passages from the Coran, and passages from the Coran,

veltige

gained him the esteem of the French, Copts, Turks, and Arabs.

was the footstep of the greatest of prophets, of Mahamet! The Turkith women repeated, with enthufiafm, yes, it is indeed the footilep of Mahomet, the greatest of prophets! For my own part, I affure you, motwithstanding the most scrupulous at-" tention, I law nothing but a imooth Rone, well perfumed, on which I could discover " neither traces of a foot nor any thing fimi-"lar." How trange is the credulity of man, which enflaves his reason, and makes him fee, feel, and hear what never existed! Thus, M. Tournefort, being present when a tomb was opened in one of the Archipelago illes, in which the people were convinced they should find a Vampyre, law only a livid corple, half worm eaten; while the Greeks perceived an entire body of pure flesh and blood, which, according to them, had not the least offentive fmell. garde anti-

Norden, in his delightful views of Egypt, has well depicted the mosque of Atar Ennabi and its environs, but was deceived in placing Memphis at Giza, though he ought not to be therefore reproached, for he himfelf confesses he doubts this was not the real scite of that ancient city, which I imagine I have

have perfectly determined, in the preceding letters; not should I again have mentioned that error, into which several travellers have fallen, did I not sear others might likewise be deceived. Thus missed, the learned Jablonski, (c) vainly, has employed all his sagacity to discover what he supposed to be truth.

At some distance from Atar Ennabi, a sinall village is feen, through the tufted date trees, where the Turks have a mosque, and the Copts a convent, named Der Ettin, the monastery of the figs; no doubt, because this fruit is there abundant. There are two species; the first grows on the very branches of the fycamore, but is dry, and little effeemed; the latter, the fame that is cultivated in France, is juicy, sweet, and of an exquisite flavour. On the eastern bank are villages, built on the top of artificial mounts, to which the men and cattle retire during the inundation. Lucerne, fown as the Nile withdraws its waters, already forms a verdant zone around these small isles. Wandering Arab tribes have pitched their tents on the fide of fandy hills, to profit

have

⁽¹⁾ This falle polition of Memphis induced him, allo, to affirm the temple of Scrapis was erected in the ille of Raouda, which is another error, and that he sind

by the river, and purchased, during some months, the right to fend their cattle to graze in meadows which they forfake, when the pasturage fails. Martyrs to that liberty they paffionately love, these unconquerable people prefer the horrors of the defert to the advantages of fociety, fly the very shadow of slavery, and, ever on their guard against tyranny, on the least distatisfaction, strike their tents, pack them upon their camels, rayage the open country, and, laden with booty, hide themselves among burning fands, whither they cannot be purfued, and which they only dare inhabit. The scourge of Egypt, which they regard as their patrimony, they are the irreconcilable enemies of the Turks, who fear and abhor them (e).

Passing the village of Bousir, we are oppoposite the grand pyramids, which rise six hundred perpendicular feet high, and, as our boat follows the windings of the river, their summits describe segments of circles in the horizon. With what majesty do these mountains of man rise to the regions of air;

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Awful

Traiter quelqu'un de Tura à More; that is too says with the rigour of a Turk towards an Arabadaian and a

Awful in their age, how often has the rifing fun enlightened them, scorched their burning fides at noon, and gilded them as he fet.

During how many ages have they, keeping
pace with the inconceivably swift motion of the earth, annually encircled this grand luminary! Man then has constructed durable edifices, and these edifices are tombs! Some authors, imagining the damage occasioned by violently opening the grand pyramid was the effect of time, have calculated how many ages they may still endure; but, the principle being false, they are infinitely short of the truth. To me it seems impossible to say when they shall cease to be. Thousands of ages frence, if undiffurbed by any grand revolution in the earth, travellers, from enlightened nations, shall go to admire these vast monuments, and say Europe scarcely had a few favages scattered over her forests when a learned nation erected these superb mausoleums, toward the four cardinal points of heaven, as monuments of its piety, and astronomical knowledge!

Melons, peculiar to Egypt, named Abd Hellaoui, the flave of mildness, are cultivated in the neighbouring villages: firm and brit-

iles like the apple, thought less fweet than other melons they are preferred thebaufe. during the heats) they are very ingreable; notritive, and healthy in Here, also, is a species of lettuce, with large, smooth, and high leaves. much efteemed whole fields are col vered with them, being eaten in prodigious quantities, and their feed weed to make dile Hamlets are feen on the right and left as we advance whose inhabitants area tilling the land, which, in four months, will willd them abundant returns of The village of Halouan appears on the eaftern bank, furrounded by date-trees, where the Mekias was when the Arabs conquered Egypt Memphis flood on the opposite shore, where, preferving its name, the village of Mengh now flands. Strabe, Pliny, and Abulfeda have described its ruins, and put this beyond doubting Here, fill, are heaps of rubbish to but the cont lumns and remarkable stones the Arabs have transported to Cairo, and placed them, with out tafte or order, in their buildings and mosques. This city extended almost to Sachad cara, and was nearly furrounded by lakes, which fill in part fublify these were cross fed to bear the dead to the fepulchres of their fathers. 90

fatherso- Their tembal duggin the rock; and closed by a stone of proportionate fize, were covered with fand , and thefe bodies embalms ed with fuch care, preserved with so much refrech the inhabitants of Saccara drag from their refting place, and, fhameles, fell them to foreigners. This is the plain of mummies, and here is the well of birds, which is dofeended by the aid of a rope; it leads into Subterranean galleries, filled with earthern veffels, which contain the facred birds. b. They are feldom found whole, because the Arabi break them to fearch for idols of gold of They never take travellers to the places where they have found the most precious things, but carefully close them, and have fecret passages la by which they descend. The duke de Chaulnes, when travelling in Egypt, penetrated far into thefero labyrinths; bfometimes; on this b knees, and, at others, crawling. Proinfructed, H by the Honorable Wortley Montague, he care. fully vifited Egypt, and came to one of thefens paffages, which was closed, at the entrance; by branches of the date-tree, interwoven, and covered with fand, where he observed hieroglyphics, in relief, executed with the utmost w perfection: but his offers could not prevail

lon them wither to tletchim take cafts for deawings, of the figures of the Dake thinks these hieroglyphics, so highly fittished as to give a perfect image of the objects they represent, might become a key to those the simple outlines of which are only traced. and form a kind of alphabet, to that unintelligible tongue. Be this as it may, I fliall propose means, in a letter on that subject, to attempt the explanation of these mysterious characters, and read, on Egyptian monuments, the most ancient history of the world.

Along the mountains which bound Saccara, on the west, are several pyramids, the largest of which seem as high as those of Gizz. Indulge me in some reflections, which obtrude themselves upon my mind, at the fight of edifices that attract and fix my attention. Did these mausoleums originate in the pride of the Pharaohs; and must we attribute their construction to vanity ? as So various writers have thought But leave we an opinion, which has no origin in the human heart. Kings build not palaces to inhabit when dead. A more imperious fen-

Mémoire sur les hieroglyphes du puits de Saccara, par M. le Duc de Chaulnes. eins.

fation, a fear of the future, a perfusion of what must happen after life, induced them to raife these magnificent tombs (g). Religion taught them that, fo long as their bodies were preserved from corruption, their fouls would not forfake them; and that, in three thousand years, they should be restored to life. This belief occasioned them to raise buildings which the genius of the greatest architects endeavoured to render inacceffible; the pyramidal form was given them, as the most durable, which form, also, referred to their worthip, by rendering homage to the fun, whose rays it imitated (b). If so, here is a manifest proof this ancient people believed the immortality of the foul. Kings, now, as heretofore, are well fatisfied with

tention. Did their strate and fix my at-

action

⁽h) Pliny, lib. 36, says the obelisks were consecrated to the sun, whose rays they represented, as their Egyptian name indicated; for they, as well as the pyramids, were, in Egyptian, named Pyramua, Sun's rays. Vide Jablonski, tom. III. The Greeks first gave them the name of obelisks; leaving to the pyramids that of Pyramis, from Ive, fire; in which they have preserved the ancient etymology. Obelisks were first consecrated to the sun, because, by their shadows, they knew the hour of the day.

this world: for them flowers and harvests fpring; all Nature finiles upon them; and, had they the faith of the Egyptian monarchs, we should behold them produce miracles, by which they would endeavour to ascertain their return to earth. The religion of Egypt passed into Greece, and Artemisia built a mausoleum for her husband, in the pyramidal form, which rose one of the seven wonders of the world. This supposition of an immortal foul, found among illanders; feparated from every enlightened nation by immense seas, has produced a monument which may well furprize us. The people of Otaheite, unaffisted by metal tools, have cut stones, exceedingly hard, and formed a pyramid, where the body of Oberea, their queen, reposes. Round this morrai, her relations and friends, with religious retrospect, shed pious tears, and the spirit of Oberea finds confolation, at beholding their grief and affection (i).

Let us leave the gloomy deserts of Saccara, where we walk upon graves, those high pyramids, which inspire melancholy contem-

⁽i) Hawkesworth's Voyages, Vol. II. page 166. plation,

plation, and the lake, over which they bore the dead, that brings the fable of Charon to recollection. We are once more in our boat! With what pleasure does the fight, fatigued by the glittering scorched sand, dwell on verdant prospects, the pure sky, the majestic river, and fields which every instant present new sources of plenty. Having endured the fearful picture of sterility, what an inexpressible charm is it to view the secundity of Nature, who waits the man, expiring in the desert he traverses, to impart sudden delight, and a new source of life.

We are feven leagues above Old Cairo; and here the Nile, impeded by rocks to the east, ran westward, and watered the lands of Libya. According to Herodotus, (k) one of the Pharaohs raised a mound, and turned its course between the mountains, forcing it to empty itself into the bay that then over-flowed all the Delta, and thus gave birth to that celebrated island, which slowly encroaches upon the Mediterranean. The ancient bed, which the Arabs call Babr belowa, a sea without water, may still be traced:

⁽i) Hawkelworth's Voyages, Vol II page 192 (A)

boats, by which it was formerly navigated, now petrified, very large parts of which I have feen brought to Grand Carlo. Allong bank is fill found, between Saccara and Dachbour, thrown up to defend Memphis from the inundation, if it thould break the mounds, and also from the totronts of lands which the winds drove from the Libyan hillstde early hand.

The ide of Terfaye is at some distance from this elbow; here they are beginning to plant water melons and cucumbers. The Egyptians cultivate a species of the latter very small, called Cousa, of which they are exceedingly fond: it is mild, tender, and very delicate; they eat it in their sallads, but the most usual mode is to pick out the seed, and fill it up with hashed meat, rice, and spices; cooked thus, in its own juice, it is excellent. Beyond this island Dachhour is seen, up the country, to which there is a canal, with a stone bridge of several arches. Strabo (1) and Ptolemy (m) place Acanthos six leagues

The small hills beyond these plains abound with oyster, and other petrified, stylldid (1)seeding south, from Acanthos, w4 did (10)

vaft

from Memphis, on the fame fide of, and at a distance from, the river; which feite perd feetly corresponds to Dachhour, a Here was a temple of Ofiris, now totally destroyed; but west of the village, on the side of the mound tain, is a grand pyramid, a continuation of those of Saccara and Gizacia bound and

The fandy plains, which extend along the hills, are feattered with frones, vulgarly called Egyptian flints. Round, like pebbles, their rough furface does not invite any one to pick them up but the grain, when broken, is found extremely fine, capable of being highly polified and most of them contains ing the figures of herbs, plants, and thrubs, fo as often to form charming landscapes! These dark lines, most elegantly traced, are delightfully spread over a light ground, prefenting a vast variety of designs, and different shades. There is great choice, for the fands are covered with them. I faw only one Jew, at Cairo, who had the art to work them into boxes, and knife handles, for which reason he took care to be well paid. The small hills beyond these plains abound with oyster, and other petrified, shells. Proceeding fouth, from Acanthos, we traverse a

from

watered and fertilized, at this feafon of the year, by hivilets. These valles are now covered with com, dourra, and verdure: fome months hence, the Nile having quite ted them, they will become a defect. At the far end of this plain is the village of Tamieh, to which a canal is cut.

We now, Sir, enter the fertile province of Artinoe, at prefent Fayoum; the country of wonders, where are the labyrinth, and its treely palaces; the lake Meeris, and its pyramids. After transcribing the ancients, I will add an exact description of the present state of these places, the monuments and ruins that still remain, and leave you, Sir, to conjecture what they once were.

I have the honour to be, &c.

EGYPT contains no menoments which more have excited enquiries and disputes among the learned, than the lake Maris, and the labyrinth, which, as I have sudding province contains. The except of the one and the feite of the other have, he tains, one and the feite of the other have, he tains, but tains.

vall country, the low fields of which tie watered and feetilized, at this feetile of the

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covered with costs, downers, and wedness;

The topography of the province of Payoum: enquiries concerning its monuments, the position of which is ascertained by the ancients, and the remaining ruins: scite of the labyrinth, confirmed by Herodotus, Pliny, Diodorus, Ptolemy, and the remains of Balad Caroun, and Cast Caroun: description of this wonderful place, with restellions on the subject details on the lake Maris: its extent, his therto uncertain, determined by quotations beforetime used for a purpose the very reverse: its construction, canals, and sluices fully displayed; with its present circumserence.

To M. L. M.

Grand Cairo.

EGYPT contains no monuments which more have excited enquiries and disputes, among the learned, than the lake Moeris, and the labyrinth; which, as I have said, this province contains. The extent of the one and the scite of the other have, by turns, IVol. I. Dd been

been contested. Geographers, to conciliate all parties, have created two labyrinths (n). Some writers have allowed the lake Meris an immense circumference (a) thers, placing it in fairy land (p) have employed the charms of wit to ridicule the credulity of historians. These contradictions have darkened the clouds of incertainty, and concealed truth. Let us endeavour to find her, by citing the ancients, who fometimes have been falfely interpreted, by carefully following Strabo, who has exactly described what he, like an enlightened traveller, vi-what he, like an enlightened traveller, vi-and, particularly, by a faithful ac-lited; and, particularly, by a faithful account of those remaining monuments he mentions. "Quitting Acanthos (q) we leave toward Arabia, Aphroditopolis, (r) where the facred white ox is kept." (The village according to the most learned gengraphers, (s) is the place where the city of

abd.

Egypteiur do ellid aneiende of Boffuery diffour l'Hife.

⁽¹⁾ Named the great, to diffinguish inistla Valler

city of Hercules, in Lower Egyptradil Codente (p)

The ancient Croced Leuns of Venta and Land

Pococke. D'Anville, Memi für l'Egypte.

Venus flood, red Beyond the Nile is the Heracleotic prefecture, fituate in a large fland. The two canals, cut from the river to the lake, the one from the village of Bouch, and the other patting near Tamieh, form this illand. The remarkable ruins found hear Bayamout feem to indicate the scite of Heracles (t), the capital of that province. Here are two ruinous pyramids which contain only a few layers of Rones. Strabo continues, Near Heraclea a canal which, dividing into two branches, wincludes a small flland, and traverses the prefecture of Arlinoe, the finest and richest in Egypt. If we follow this ancient geographer on the map, we shall find these places have fuffered little change, and shall be conducted directly to Fayoum, the capital of all this country; a modern town, though a league north-east of its walls are hills of ruins, in which we discover vestiges of Arfinos (w) The Arabs collect the fands

(t) Named the great, to distinguish it from another city of Hercules, in Lower Egypt, near Canopus.

Venus

⁽u) The ancient Crocodilopolis, where the facred crocodiles were kept. The Greeks, having conquered Egypt, called it Arimoe.

that

bin Agbs, ment Brind bas outile entitle anothe anothe feals and medals and At forme diffance an obelifk refls on its pedenal, the fole monument which has braved the injuries of time, and the ravages of barbarians, twenty-two feet ih circumference, at the bale, and about hifty high! Its fides abound in hieroglyphics, divided into columns, and frequently defaced: its corners are broken, and the fine block of granite of which it is formed is damaged to about one half of its height. Strabo forfakes us here, to describe the lake Moeris, not far from Artinoe, and the labyrinth on its borders ; he does not precifely mark the fcite, But Herodotus and Ptolemy do, and fix it on the Libyan fide, near the banks of the lake elfash in Let us continue our routersm lufrewood

ward, we cross the grand canal Bahr Youfeph, the river of Joseph. In the village of
Nelle, lying to the left, are no traces of antiquity! After a journey of two hours, northwest, a landy and sterile plain is found; and,
presently, mountains of ruins are discovered,
nearly, a league in extent. The first heap

Ddg

⁽x) Herodotus, lib. 2. Ptolemy, dibd. znivi shadi

the Arabs call Balad Caroun, the willage or town of Caroun; the second Cast Caroun, the palace of Caroun (x). In the space hetween, enormous stones are every where scattered; but the most remarkable remains are at the extremities. Amidst the ruins of Cast Caroun is a large building, several apartments of which still are standing, and sull of the shafts of columns; round it is a portico, half demolished; and stairs are sound, by some of which they ascended to the upper sories, and by others descended to those under ground. The attention is particularly fixed by several narrow, low, and very long cells, which seem to have had no other use than

powerful man, and fay he could load feveral camels with the keys of the apartments that contained his treafures, from which unanimous affertion we may collect a truth. In Egypt, perhaps, the word Caroun fignified an employment with which the boatman was nonured who ferried the bodies of the Kings over the lake Moeris, to deposit them in the labyrinth of which he was guardian, and, doubtless, the same title appertained to him who performed the same office for the inhabitants of Memphis over that lake. Supposing this conjecture true, we shall here find the origin of the Grecian Charon, and the reason of the Arabs calling these ruins the palace of Carount and contains the palace of Carount and carount

the

that soft containing the shocks of the facted crocodiles, brought higher from Crocodile-polis, where the priests kept, and the people adored, them a These remains, slying towards Libya, a league from Birquet Caroun, formerly the lake Meris; can only correspond with the labyrinth, to which the ancients (2) ascribe this scite, and do not notice any city so shrusted at Let us read the description of this famous place, now, in part, covered by fands, in Herodotus, that we may form aljust idea of its fand do not not so bus

The twelve kings, (a) elected by the segretary built the labyrinth, on the game in fide with the city of the crocodiles, which appears to me to surpass all that same has self-walls, and the nature of the labour, we shall find it impossible to estimate the simmente cost of this building of The tem-

" the

lib. 4. All agree in placing the labyrinth beyond the city of Arfinoc, toward Libya, and on the bank of the lake Morris, which is the precise fituation of these ruins.

(a) Herodotus, lib. 2.

so the world, as is that ingheitle of isamos. col Bach pyramid, fingly, equats, in grandeus, sigene numerous and great works of Greece; in yet thefe, however magnificent, may not be compared to the labyrinth pate! A roof of waft extent covers the twelve palaces of entrance is found through twelve doors, fix facing the north and fix the fouth. They se are enclosed by a rhick and extensive wall: the whole edifice confifts of two stories, the therene vabove the other under ground, " and each contains fifteen hundred apartments. I vifited the first and relate what 11 I have feen y as to the feeded, the keepers mwould not fuffer me to descend, faving, so the bodies of the kings; who built them, Mand those of the facred crocodiles were s there preferved profuthele, therefore, I medal only relate what I have been fold. M. Human industry has displayed all its powmers in the distribution of the upper itoo sysbno Their porticos, sithele pallages, shom

sid bear of the guidance is a serious libertains with the ward of the collection of the guidance is the graph of the serious of the serious all stands of the war of the receive is the graph of the ferious of the ferious of the ferious of the ferious of the serious of the seri

Hohalis to chambers of from chambers do car fichinetsy from telbinets to terraces and from Unterraces into other apartments, form winds Snings fit numerous hand for different, downs "vneven lwearynoofdadmitingodthebart with Yawhich they had been constructed lag Walts "litoofs; all are of fronty various figures, "nestfully foulptured, are feen, here and there? IdRoundiothesi hallsudare notately beolumnso mostly of white marble. A pyramid, each To of its fides two hundred and hifty feet in Swidth and through which is the descent "big the fubterrabean chambers, sterminates Diodorus Siculus, Pliny, "admitydabadtus" Such is the desdription of Herbdotus, and though that of Strabol (s) nwho vifited the fame place, many ages after him; whoes not exactly accord, but fill confirms this account in general : describes winding and warious passages, and so artfully contrived it was impossible to enter any one of the palaces, or leave it having entered, without a guiden Strabo fays, magnificent columns furround-Stilkw at thutes; is no mirrage alaquiding deads hobs body, he tays, repotes in the pyramid, standing at one of its extremities. Plint, that it was built by Bill frens or Tithoe, but, as he cites contradictory authorities, he sud

were built with vaft flones and on the doit of the roof an immense platform was seen! which deemed applain of rocket at beholding which the mind was aftenished a It is true he pretends the labyrinth contained twenty fever /palaces withere athe States doff Roypt affembled water certain periods, for theodifcustion of affairs, most important to govern She sidedordesi itilitudare noigilis bak stanm twelve, mentioned by Herodotus were maf? terward divided sinto itwenty-feven ilparts of that in the interval of ages! between bite? two historians, the edifice had been enlarged." Diodorus Siculus, Pliny, and Poinpontus Mela described without having seen whe lahymath, copying and embellishing the two first authors, but gave no newninformation? The founder of the dabytinth is maknown cachinwriters (d) inames concord feveral pandi pelflores, and so artfully contrived it was

The rodotus fays the labyrinth was built by the twelve Bings who governed Egypt, when Plahmetichus, one of the twelve, puffelled himfelf of Tovereign power. Strabo, attributes its conftruction to Ismandes, whose body, he says, reposes in the pyramid, standing at one of its extremities. Pliny, that it was built by Peterseus or Tithoe, but, as he cites contradictory authorities, he

but

mostly different, which variety of opinions indicates it was not the work of one but of of which may be here difcovered farther

This monument, regarded by Pliny as the most astonishing effort of human genius, no more is to be found, except amid the ruins of Balad Caroun and Cafr Caroun, Heren after, when Europe hall have restored to Egypt the sciences it received thence, perhaps, the fands and rubbish which hide the subserranean part of the labyrinth will be removed, and precious antiquities obtained. Who can fay but the discoveries of the learned were preferved in this afglum, equally impenetrable to the natives and foreign ers? . If the duft of Herculaneum. 2 and 1672 confiderable city, has preferred to many tarities, and inftructive remains of art and history, what may not be expected from the fifteen hundred apartments lin which the archives of Egypt were deposited, since the governors affembled here to treat on the most important affairs of religion and state? But

but augments incertitude. Diodorus fuppoles the labyrinth is the work and the tomb of Mendes, Pomponius or (b) Life Some Mela attributes it to Pfammetichus. puloufly

I must

I much not thus indulgatin conjecture theis, time to fpeak of the lake Meris, remains of which may be here discovered stuffed ently grand to fix the attention of Herodotus (a) and Strabo (f) mark its feite by de claring the labyrinth was on its banks and naming the cities that forrounded it. h. Acano thoso the fouth, Aphroditopolis to the caft, and Affinoe on the north Diodorus (g) and Pliny 6hy confirm these authorities, by placing it twenty-four leagues from Mema phis between the province for called and that of Arfinoc, which unanimity gives every defirable centitude ato truth by Had this lake. however, totally disappeared, like the lake Marcotis, doubts might be entertained, but, in the very place these historians describe a lake is still feen, called Birquets Caroun, more than fifty leagues in circumferenced wherefore, unless we refift convictions we must here acknowledge the remains of Mes fism By referring to the ancients, and ferus

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important affairs of religion and state? But

but augments incertitude. Diodorus suppliedine Wyriarh is the work and the tomb of Mendes! donpestus

⁽b) Lib. 5. Mela attributes it to Planmetichus. puloufly

doing us

pulously examining their testimony, we may, by division of sitted and most anished perhaps, obtain light on a topographical perhaps and a situate site of the perhaps of th

duction which has been greatly obscured.

The labyrinth I have described is still below the service of the labyrinth I have described is still less surprizing, says Herodotus, than the lake Mœris, which is 3000 stadia, or 60 less surprize to the base of Egypt, next the sea (1), exence of the base of Egypt, next the sea (1), exence of the base of Egypt, next the sea (1), exence of the base of Egypt, next the sea (1), exence of the base of Egypt, next the sea (1), exence of the base of Egypt, next the sea (1), exence of the base of Egypt, next the sea (1), exence of the base of Egypt, next the sea (1), exence of the base of Egypt, next the sea (1), exence of t

bufi) Herodotus determines the scheenes, in Lower Egypt, at four miles, or a league and quarter thus the 60 schoeni make 75 leagues. Strabo and Diodorus use other admeasurements in their estimation, yet agree with Herodotus. The base of Egypt, then, is determined at 75 leagues, and, being equal in circumference to the lake Moeris, this circumference must also be 75 leagues. I am obliged to be thus circumstantial because this pasfage has been productive of many errors, most writers, attending only to the first part of the period, in which Herodotus makes the lake 3600 ftadia, and giving to each ftadium its usual value of about 100 fathoms, have made the lake Moeris 150, and 180 leagues in circumference; but whoever will examine the pallage will find the 3600 stadia are determined to be 60 schoeni, or 75 leagues, and, consequently, the author estimates by stadia of 50 fathoms. I know not if this has been before observed, but I know this passage, ill interpreted, has given birth to all the modern debates. Voltaire, with the arm of ridicule, has combated the existence of a tending from the north to the fouth (k), and its greatest depth is three hundred and its greatest depth is three hundred between the property of the first of the four houses of the first of the first

lake of 180 leagues; larger, fays he, than Egypt. Rollin and Boiluet, especially, have maintained its existence with heat. Several have diminished its extent, making it some 20 leagues; and d'Anville, destrous of conciliating all parties, has, in his map of Egypt, created a grand canal, and called it the lake Moeris. He has been no more fortunate than the others. The form and situation of this pretended Moeris directly contradict the most respectable authorities of history.

but, formerly, it might reach from Arlinoe to the canal by which it discharged itself.

d) Herodotus employs the fladium in both these best and the same of the same o

" which

Shi which flowering it fix months in the fiver shouring the other lix months. In the first shouting the other lix months. In the first shouting the other lix months. In the first shouting the other lix months of the first should be found. The natives "amine only in the second. The natives "lay a canal is dug through the mountain should be which which extends to and confinitional, "Memphis. This is a discharge by which the super-abundant waters are carried west." ward, among the Libyan lands will asked "methe lake; and was afford it had been the carried to the river, and was afford by the second to the carried to t

The relations of Strabo and Herodotus mutually explain each other. The pro"vince of Arfinoe (n) contains the marvellous lake Moeris, which, for its extent,
colour, and thores, relembles a lea. Deep
as it is valt, it receives, at the beginning of the inundation, the waters, left they
thould cover the fields and habitations of that a bestume a value of the particular of the beginning the waters, left they

aft in Tarks with the fitting of this after falfity of this after

⁽n) Strabo, lib. 17.

[&]quot; men,

"men, through a large canalion Whenwihe "Nile decreases these waters are returned. by two other canals (those of Tamieh and Bouch) which, like the first; water the lands; fluices are formed, at the head of the canals, which are opened, at pleafare. " to admit or return the waters." (10). Though this passage does not determine the extent of the lake, it proves it to have been very great Diodorus Siculus follows Herodotus, who allows it I to have been 12600 fadia, or feventy-five leagues, in circumference ed Pliny oftimates bit at two shindrad and fifty thousand paces, near eighty leagues: thus the ancients agree on a point formuch disputed by the moderns, none of whom give fufficient proofs of their opinion

⁽o) Diodorus Siculus pretends it cost so talents, or £ 6250, to open these suices: it is difficult to discover what could occasion him to adopt this sable. Herodotus and Strabo, who visited and carefully examined these places, mention no such thing; mor do Pliny and Pomponius Mela, who, citing all the ancients had written relative to the lake Mæris, would not have omitted a fact so extraordinary. Its great improbability added to the filence of historians demonstrate the falsity of this affect tion.

to make it universal. The lake, at present, is only about fifty leagues in circumserence; but this diminution does not prove Herodotus and Pliny were deceived. After so many revolutions in Egypt, within these two thousand years, it may have undergone greater changes.

Examine the map, Sir, and you will perceive the chain of mountains, on the left of the Nile, continued almost from the cataracts to Fayoum, fuddenly departs toward Libya, and, returning eastward, forms an immense bafon, though lower than the bed of the river. This land was formerly covered by barren fands, because the stream, impeded by downs, and rocks, could not water them. A king, named Moeris, perfectly acquainted with the disposition of the lands, conceived one of the noblest projects that ever entered the mind of man, which he had the glory to execute. He reloived to change this defert into a uleful take, and, when twarms of men affern bled had dug and cleared the foil, in various places, he cut a canal, forty leagues in length. and three hundred feet wide, to introduce the waters of the Nile This grand canal, which

J so Vis

is fill entire, is known by the name of Bahr. Youseph, the river of Joseph, it begins near Tarout Recherif, and ends at Birquet Caroun, and must have cost immense sume, being, in many parts, cut through the rock. To relieve Egypt from the Superfluons was ters which, in these distant ages, remained too long on the lands, then much lower than at present, and occasioned sterility, was not sufficient. This great prince rendered them useful to agriculture by cutting two other canals, from the lake to the river, and dig. ging near their mouths fluices which were that during the increase of the Nile, when the waters, entering through the canal of Joseph collected in the vast circumference of the lake Mæris, where they were bounded by mounds and mountains. When the Nile decreased these sluices were opened, and a body of water near eighty leagues in citcumference, and thirty feet higher than the usual level of the river, (p) formed a second soirshauding and cleared the feil, in various

⁽p) The fource of the canal of Joseph, being in the Thebais, carried the waters of the Nile, when they be gan to increase, to the lake Mocris, where being retain.

Vol. I. E c

with.

inundation, directed at will so One part was returned to the Nile for the purpose of mevigation, another, branchedioto innumerable rivulets, watered the fields and gave fertility even to fandy hills as This twork othe most wast and useful the earth ever contained, united every advantage, and supplied the deficiencies of a low inundation, by retaining water which would have ufelefsly been expended in the fea. It was faill more highly beneficial, when the increase was too great by receiving that injurious superfluity which would have prevented feed time to Fearful this artificial sea might break its bounds, and accasion dreadful ravages, a manal was bent, through the mountain, by which the fuperabundant waters were discharged among the Lybian fands. History knows not a work fo glorious, nor is it wonderful antiquity esteems it above the pyramide and dabyrinth; for with the grandeur of the enterprize it includ-

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ed on one fide by mountains, and on the other by inounds and fluices, dug on the canals of Bouch and Tamieh, they equalled the height of the inundation, that is to lay, were nearly thirty feet higher than the usual level of the tives, our sour our one only work

Egyptians, who detected the kings by whom they were forced to remove mountains that pyramids might be railed; bleffed the memory of Moeris, and his name is everlasting.

This lake has nearly loft all its advantages; the barbarians, in whose hands Egypt has remained for twelve centuries, have deftroyed or suffered most of its monuments to perish. The lake Marcotis is dry, the canal of Alexandria no longer navigable, and Meeris is only fifty leagues in circumference. Were the canal of Joseph cleansed, in which the mud is very deep, the ancient mounds repaired, and the fluices restored; this lake might again ferve the same purposes, might prevent the evils of a too great, and supply the defects of a too feeble, inundation; might extend, as formerly, from Nelle and Arfinge to the Lybian mountains, and shew the astonished traveller a sea which man had made. Its depth, of three hundred feet, according to the ancients, may be exaggerated, but much less than it is supposed. Its bottom is a bason, formed by mountains, and is very low; fince the Nile runs into it, through .Ee 2 morall bas di the

Pomis

the canal of Tamieh (q); and though mud has, for ages, collected, it is still very deep.

Should these reasons prove insufficient to make us adopt the opinion of the ancients, they, at least, should induce us to suspend our judgment, and examine times and places, before we call their writings fabulous.

The pyramids Herodotus describes no longer subsist, and, apparently, did not in the Augustan age, since Strabo does not mention them. On the north of Birquet Caroun we perceive a headland, which, doubtless, was, formerly, an island that ends in a rock, covered with ruins. This, perhaps, was the base of these sepulchres, which having two colossal statues, seated on thrones, on their summits, and rising out of a sea, the waters must have formed a sight such as the whole world could nowhere else afford. I do not give these conjectures as realities, but, you will own, Sir, it was not more

difficult

⁽q) The reverse happened, formerly; the superabundant waters were carried to the lake Moeris, by the canal of Joseph, which was deeper, and which preserved them by means of sluices. They were afterwards returned to the Nile, when low, through the canals of Tan ieh and Bouch,

difficult to build pyramids in an island of the lake Mæris, than those which stand near Giza. But I forbear: I fear having been too circumstantial already, though I have thought it absolutely necessary, while, among so many contradictions, I have endeavoured to dif-cover that truth, which you, Sir, and fuch The pyramids Herodotus delcibes nov as

. Saged of Tuonod the sand Tutly, did not in the Augustan age, fince Strabo does not mention them. On the north of Birquet Caronn we perceive a headland, which, doubtlefs, was, formerly, an illand that ends in a tock, covered with ruins. This, perhaps, was the base of these sepulchres, which having two coloffal hatnes, feated on thrones, on filer fuminite, and rifing but of a fea, the waters must have formed a fight fuch as the whole world could newhere elfe afford. Y do not effe thele confectures as realities, but, you will own, Sir, it was not more

milities you by an ecount of the prefets that o (q) The reverte happened, formerly; the superabune dant waters, were carried to the lake Moeris, by the canal of loseph, which was deeper, and which preserved them by means of fluices. They were afterwards icrurned to the Nile, when low, through the canals of

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bleafing, fweet, and odoriferous. The cahals are full to the brim, and the fields covered with har vegetables, and on

beauties of nature every where abound, for On the productions of the province of Fayoum : Its manufactures, arts, and inhabitants; its fields, floaded by orange-groves, and clustering - rose trees; the flowers of which, distilled; vield excellent rose-water. The abundant fifbery of the lake and canals, and the numerous water fowls. The capital city and its

" excellent oil, were they lets trammayoung

the olive is no where elfe found in Egypt, M. J. MoT.

". oriba basha, the fruit of which is not pro-HE preceding letter, i Sir, la affordsedifabricuffion only touthe mind and ruins to the eyes He who would tear away the weil with which a space of three thousand years has covered these monuments must expect no better; but I will now endeavour to relieve you by an account of the present state of Fayoum, hoping the subject will furnish pictures less barren. The most pleasant seafon, here, is the approach of winter. The mild and grateful winds, like those of France, in the finest days of spring, are still more pleasing,

pleafing, fweet, and odoriferous. The canals are full to the brim, and the fields covered with grafs, vegetables, and corn. The beauties of nature every where abound, for this province is one of the wealthieft and most fruitful of Bgypt. Strabo (r), eighteen centuries ago, thus described it. bear The prowince of Arlinoe furpaffes all others in beauwy, riches, and the variety of its productions. ... It, alone, produces the most perfect olives, and from which the Egyptians might make " excellent oil, were they less negligent, for " the olive is no where elfe found in Egypt, " if we except those reared in the gardens of " Alexandria, the fruit of which is not prodisperto make oil cons Inabounds in wines, thicorn, wegetables, and feeds of all kinds." Could this historian ceturn to Payoum he would find it prodigiously changed; the labyrinch deftroyed, marshes, where palaces pect no better; but I will now endeavour to

(r) Lib. 17.

(s) Since the canal of Alexandria has become dry, nine months in the year, there gardens, with their olive and all their other trees, have disappeared. I saw some in the orchards near Rosetta i they were very large, and the olives they yielded bigger than those of the ide of Crete, or Provence, from which, I am persuaded, excellent oil might be made.

pleafing

ewere Jonud-wall willages, Awhere cities flowmished s canals almost drys and Meets sed dred do two thirds of its former extent : but the would recollect the fame productions and the fagin abundance wherevers the waters fean penetrated The Copts silk cultivate the tolive and the winds their forefathers planted will gather excellent grapes, of which they make a montagreeable white wine (1) in The whole dountry is now covered with wheat, barley, and dourn, which dife in fuccoffion uninterroptedly, for wieven preeight months of The tall flax, the fugar-cane, and vegetables of all kinds, biproutup, falmoft without culture icheumbets and near twenty species of melons, melting, fiveet, and most healthy, adorn the banks of the divulets a clustering fruit trees, among which are the date, the fig. the bana na athe cassia, and the thorny maber which produces a small tartish pear prare scattered To this wealth of fertility Favoum adds

rons of Alexandria and the Sebennific province provided very famous wines, but the Mahometans have destroyed the vine plants. They have left none, except in the province of Fayoum. The grapes, in general, which grow in the landy grounds of Egyptiate of an exquisite flavour.

over the plaint wAmidsthis divertity of trees and plants of the rold build grow near villages. An other provinces this fine hrub only ornaments gardens, here it is cultivated, and the rose waters distilled from its odoriferous flower, forms an extensive branch of commerce la Payoum Supplies all Egypt, and the confirmation is very greated It is abundantly sprinkled on the face and hands of persons who wifit (u) The women wash their bodies with it at the bath, and hever dress themselves without rose water wi These clusters of rose bushes, sometimes surround ed by the orange tree in flowery produce a charming effect on the fight, and a ftill more charming one by their fmell . The whole atmosphere is impregnated, and the pleasure of breathing the perfumes of the role; minu gled with the fwest emanations of orange flowers sis here texquilites of diamic a possible un

To this wealth of fertility Fayoum adds that, of the fifthery The canals and lake fwarm with fifty which are caught in prodigious quantities, and eat in the province, or

carried

⁽u) The role water of Fayoum has a delicious odour, which it long preferves: the best is fold at three shillings and four pence a bottle. over

carried to the neighbouring civies, and larevas cheap as at Damiettal . A meding (od) will purchase chough to fuffica in a man for a day ... When the froft and flow of winter is felt in the northern countries, innumerable Hooks of birds refere to the lake Miceris, and the canals of Fayoum. In The people careh abundance of geefo with golden plumage and a most agrecable flavour, fat and delicate; ducks teak (wans, the fixing of which are effed like furs, and pelicans, remarkable for their large beaks, in the form of a fpatula. These latter, the kings of aquatic birds, sail on the furface of the lake, in numerous fas milies, while the whiteness of their plumage forms a charming contrast with the deep azure of the waters. Modern Egyptians preferve fome remains of that ancient veneration in which the ibis, crane, and ftork, were held; forbear to net for them, and these birds, confiding in the clemency of man, are and Ptolemais, are replaced by clematificaties

What pleasure should I feel could I describe the property of a last this abundance I that a last a montrous government and anathrance than public baths, markets, and colleges.

Leigner chy,

⁽x) A copper coin, plated, worth five farthings.

chy, the enemy of order, and of laws, iew tinguishes gerilus, and, like a pellilential wind, depopulates cities, and devous the country and its inhabitants. Men, who, in a climate for pure, and on a foil fo fruitful, would pofe fels mild and gentle manners, and enjoy the treasures of prodigal nature, and those benell fits the arts produce, become barbarous, fuls persitious, and miserable, under the voke of those infatiable tyrants who fatten on their substance Agriculture languishes, and the fands of Lybia yearly encroach upon its domains; the fine provinces of Heracleotis and Arlinge are reduced to a third of their former extent, if we only include the productive lands. Were the canals and mounds repair ed, they would recover their ancient limits, and flourish as formerly. The climate, the earth, the waters are the fame; men and laws only are changed but of thed to? bled

The cities of the crocodiles, of Hercules, and Ptolemais, are replaced by that of Fayoum, which retained a certain degree of grandeur, in the time of Abulfeda. Fayoum, capital of the province fo called, contiains public baths, markets, and colleges, which are under the direction of the Shawing.

feites, and Melchites (y) It is divided by the sanal of Joseph, and surrounded by gardens." (z) Fayoum, at present, is only helf a league in circumference, and stands on the eaftern thore of the canal remainder is destroyed, and the colleges are no more. Houses, built of sun-dried bricks, present a gloomy affemblage of huts; their inhabitants are poor, and deprived of energy, their arts are reduced to some manufactories of mats, coarse carpets, and the distillation of rose water. The town is governed by a gachef, under one of the Beys of Grand Cairo. Several Arab Sheiks, who have lands in the neighbourhood, compose the council, and go to the divan, twice or three times a week, as fummoned by the governor; their chief is held in great respect, but the members of administration cannot long enjoy concord; the continual wars, at Grand Cairo, disturb the tranquillity of the provinces, and the posfeffors of lands and governments are expelled by the victorious faction. The plundered Arabs unite themselves to the Bedouins, name of the crocodile appears to have been Chamlab,

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by the Arabs.

which Herodotus calle it, afish riasamodaM ow T (Wied

⁽z) Abulfeda, Description of Egypt.

who, always, are ready to favour malecontents, in hopes of pillage, and who defeend, like torients, from the mountains, and defended troops lent against them occasion less difference, and the husbandman is equally robbed by his enemies and defenders. When the Arabs are repulled, they bury themselves in the deserts, loaded with spoil, where their hatred against the Turks ferments with the sum is heat, and, when they feel themselves sufficiently strong, they return to commit hew ravages. Such is the fate of Egypt, such the evils of despotism.

Permit me, Sir, to finish this letter by an extract from Strabo, which proves to what degree the care taken of the most cruel animals may triumph over their ferocity. The people who inhabit the prefecture of Arimoe reverse and regard the crocodile as facred. The pricits preferve one in a lake, for that purpose, and name it Souchos (a), feeding pole, and name it Souchos (a), feeding a sound of the pole.

⁽a) This word comes from the Greek. The Egyptian name of the crocodile appears to have been Chamfah, which Herodotus calls it, or perhaps Thamfah as called by the Arabs.

LE.T.

"it with bread, mean, amb wine, in presence of Arangers, whom a fight like this fails "not to attract. Our host, one of the re"spectable persons who shewed us the sa"cred things, conducted us, after dinner, to the lake, taking with him small cakes, "roast meat, and a vessel filled with wine.
"The crocodile reposed on the bank. The priests approached: one of them opened his jaws, another put in the cakes, meat, and wine; after which repast the monster descended, peaceably, into the water, and "swam towards the other side."

The Egyptians honoured the crocodile, because it was consecrated to Typhon, the evil genius, whose sury they dreaded; and imagined they might calm his wrath, and avoid the calamities he inflicted on them, by revering an animal that was the symbol of himself. The eagerness with which the inhabitants of Celebes, at present, seek this monster, the name of Sudara (b), or brother, they give

him,

⁽b) Mr. (now Sir Joseph) Banks relates some curious facts concerning the veneration the people of Celebes have for the crocodile. Hawkesworth's Voyages, vol. iii. page 756.

him, and the visual they carry him, whould also have some foundation in the ancient religion of their country. The state of ton "

" spectable persons who shewed us the sa-

" fire take, taking with him finall cakes,

" roaff meat, and a veffel filled with wine.

"The trocodile repoled on the bank. The

" priests approached; one of them opened

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e descended, peaceably, into the water, and

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T and continuelly, to the lake N him,

1. 11.

⁽b) Mr. (now Sir Joseph) Banks relates some curious Ests concerning the veneration the people of Celebes 21406 for the chocodile. Hawkelworth's Voyages; volume page 756, u. i.

which no longer receives datherent waters, through the canal of fought, half cheaked up, to return them to the Nile.

Journey in the defert, toward the Red Sea.

The country, mountains, and fands, necessary
to cross, to arrive at the monastery of St.

Anthony. Observations on the plants, animals, quarries of various marble and sints,
found in the desert. Manner in which the
manks of St, Anthony and St. Paul live.
The prospects from the summit of mount
Colzour: resections on the great occurrences that have passed there.

leave only a tmall extent of country, fit for all age. This long inp of land, at the foot oping the foot of the foot oping the foot oping the foot of the foot oping the foot of the foot oping the fo

Let us continue our route, Sir. Returning to the Nile, by the canal of Bouch, we leave Maydoum behind us, where is the most fouthern pyramid of Egypt, several hills, with hamiets, and the ruins of Aphroditopolis, which stood on the eastern shore, where Atim now stands. The canal we have left emptied itself into the river, formerly, during fix months in the year. At present it runs, continually, to the lake Moens, which

which no longer receives sufficient waters, through the canal of Joseph, half choaked up, to return them to the Nile.

There is nothing remarkable in Bouch; the houses are of brick, and the roofs in the form of a dove-house, where the pigeons reside, while the Egyptians live below. This custom is observed throughout the Thebais: the houses look tolerably, at a distance, but the abodes of milery in the midst of abundance are every where found on entering.

The chain of mountains, east of the river, approach very near, for leveral leagues, and leave only a small extent of country, fit for tillage. This long flip of land, at the foot of sterile rocks, is diversified by villages, furrounded by groves, corn, vegetables, and fruit trees. Nature is decked in all her splendor, at the very gates of the defert. Journeying upward, west of the Nile, we perceive Benisoues, a town half a league in circumference, and whose mosques and high minarets, feen through the foliage of trees, present an agreeable prospect. Its other edifices are mere mud-wall huts, or of brick, built without elegance, or tafte. The industry of VOL. I.

Elbakara

its inhabitants is wholly confined to the manufacturing of coarse carpets, and their commerce to the productions of their foil. Benisoues is the residence of a Bey, who, like the other governors of Egypt, collects arbitrary taxes, fword in hand, encamping with his foldiers near the villages under his government, feveral months of the year. Having tobbed the labourer of his hire, and forn the fruits of his industry from him, by fear or violence, he proceeds to another part to raise like contributions. I cannot make you conceive all the oppressions of these tyrants; the troops they command are only composed of outlaws, banished their country, by their crimes, in whose hearts every feeling of pature and pity is extinct. Of this a fingle trait, which the Comte d'Antragues, who has lately quitted this country, was a witness of, may give you some idea. One of the collectors entered the hut of a poor woman, who had several children, and demanded the tax imposed by the Bey. She pleaded her poverty, and told him the possessed only a mat, and some earthen pots. He searched every where, and, finding a lack of rice, the effern, and trajar Mountoun the barragerq mid beruidos add. The st yrras of beragerq done. Which leads to a landy plain, called of the standy plain. to leave it; protesting it was her whole subfistence, asking if he would have her, the
child she suckled, and all her family, perish
with hunger. The barbarian, unmoved by
words or tears, took the sack of rice, and the
wretched mother, driven to despair, snatched
the child from her bosom, and dashed it with
force against the ground, exclaiming, Thou,
monster, shalt be answerable for his blood!
After this horrid action, her tears suddenly
stopped, and she stood motionless, like a statue, while the hardened wretch of a soldier
without seeming to be affected, went off with
his prey. Such is the fate of the people
of Egypt.

Opposite Benisoues is the village of Bayad, partly inhabited by Copts, through which is the road to the monasteries of St. Anthony and St. Paul, situated on mount Colzoum. I will give you a sketch of these wild places, which deserve the attention of naturalists, and likewise of the deserts which lie between the Nile and the Red Sea.

Two leagues north of Bayad is a narrow valley, formed by Gibel Gebey, the mount of the ciftern, and Hajar Moussoun, the marked frone, which leads to a fandy plain, called F f 2 Elbakara,

Efbakara, the cow. 13 Oh his eand extres mity is the mount Raleil, or the well be loved; its extent, which is all barren land, is feven or eight leagues in width, and much more from north to fouth. In the hollows of the rocks, and befide where the winter torrents pass, is a little verdure, produced by the Acacia, whence gum arabic is obtained, the fena, the scorpion wood, the twisted root of which is famous for curing the bite of this infect, and fome other plants. The oftrich, the chamois, the gazella, and the tiger, which makes continual war on the others, dwell among these caverns, and bound across the lands, where they scarcely can find a blade of grais. Here are flints of various colours, red, grey, black, Blue, and all extremely fine in the grain. Their upper furface is indented and rough; that next the fand, smooth and bright. The maturalist would, no doubt, find, among the cliffs, and the beds of torrents, precious stones, particularly emeralds, formerly common in Egypt. At the foot of mount Kaleil we find fprings of brackish water, surrounded by some few date-trees, which thirft renders drinkable, neither wild beaft nor man being able to obtain other. other. Above are the grots of the hermits, whom the zeal of the first ages of christianity had brought to this fearful wilderness. After climbing Kaleil, we descend into the plain of Elaraba, or carts, as barren and burning as the fiest. Its surface is parched fand, and fcorching rocks furround it. It is croffed by some winter torrents, and, though the fun devours vegetable substances, and robs plants and trees of life, it ripens stones, the most rare, on the fides of the mountains. North of this plain are three marble quarries, red, white, and black: blocks, half cut in the rock, and others, dispersed about, bespeak the labour of men. The Pharoahs hence obtained those hard polished stones with which they coated their canals, and magnificent sepulchres, carting them to the Nile, and bringing them, afterward, on rafts, to the foot of the pyramids (c). South of these is

Chiber

with which the pyramids were coated and the canals made, dame from the mountains of Arabia; but, as the eaftern part of Egypt, between the Nile and the Red Sea, was called Arabia, there is reason to believe the quarries here mentioned supplied these fine stones. The plain was named Elaraba, because of the numerous carts employed to transport these enormous masses.

another quarry, of fine granite, which has been exceedingly hewn; a refervoir of water, dug at a small distance, supplied the workmen. Hermit's grots lie beyond, nor could the whole world have supplied a place more wild, or farther from all human intercourse. Having ascended part of mount Colzoum, we arrive at the monastery of St. Anthony, which has no door; the monks draw travellers up through the window, by a pulley. This is a necessary precaution against the Arabs. It is surrounded by a high thick wall, a quarter of a league in circumference, enclosing a large garden, where various fruit trees are cultivated, the cells of the monks, and a small church where divine service is performed. A canal receives the streams of the mountains, and conducts them into the monastery; these, though somewhat briny, supply the necessities of life, and water the vegetables and fruits. The rules of these religious Copts are very austere, and their abstinence rigid, for they drink wine only on the four grand annual festivals. Their food is paste, mixed with the oil of sesama, salt den. Their doctrine has been corrupted by schism, FFA moder

felling and their oblinacy in the errors of Monothelilm is extreme; yet they believe they pollers absolute power over dæmons, felbenis, and will beafts. When Father Sicard vifited them, their superior was in fearch of the philosopher's frome. While living in constant felf-denial of every locial pleafure he was in fearch of gold. Thele monks highly venerate the grotto of St. Antheny, an obscure verreat, dug in the mountain, where this father of monaftic inflitetions lived, as in a tomb, furrounded by darknels and deferts. A high craggy rock, a league in diameter, feperates this convent from that of St. Paul, the impossibility of climbing which obliges them to go round the mountain, which is two days journey. This latter monastery, built on the east fide of mount Colzoum, is likewife inhabited by Copts, as poor, pious, and ignorant, as the former salur

Seated on mount Colzoum, the Red Sea lies beneath our feet, near the end of which, far off, may be discovered that part where the leader of the Mrachites, probably, passed with his whole people through the supended waves. To the fouth-east are the famous क्ष्मोंनेवो. Ff4 mounts

mounts Horeb and Sinat, where he received the tables of the ten commandments. The very affect of these places incites ferious contemplation, we behold around ha the country in which the most predominant of all religious half took birth. The Egyptian is past, but not the Jewish, notwithstanding the opproblium cast upon this reproved nation. The Christian and Mahometan extend over the earth. How fruitful in wonders have been the surrounding country, the mountains, and the sea! History is full of them, and the barbarians of these nations still preserve their memory.

Let us descend Colzoum, and approach the Red Sea. Its shores are covered with innumerable shells, the form, colours, and beauty of which successively fix the attention, and choice is embarrassed by variety. The rocks are variegated by marine plants, the waters abound in corals, some white, others red as scarlet. To these curious objects add the marbles of the mountains, the precious mines they contain, the plants which spring beside the torrents, the rare shirts of the sands, and you will allow, Sir, these are things that well deserve the attention

ledge must be purchased by so many satisfies and perils, it is necessary to be so long exposed to the plundering Arabs, and the searching heats of the sun, that it is not surprising no learned man has hitherto dared to search these deserts. Let us leave them, Sir, and return to the Nile, whose banks are most delicious after such a journey.

earth. How furtful in wonders have been the furrounding country, the mountains, and the feat History is full of them, and the barbarians of these nations full preserve their memory.

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rapidicuriente reroutive by its favourable breathy and proceed towards the Upper Thebaisper Bear KK Kin offe Black Tand borne on waters ow hole the live is a high as the banks, The route from Bayad to Achmounain Towns and willages on seach fiden the critical less feribed, with their warious afpects and good pernment , the two branches of the grand sanal, Babn Youfephin facrifice to the fine Soulptured on a rock, near Babain reflections on the Subject : remarks on the principality of Malaouis dependent on Mecca, and the stately portico of Asbmounain. of The adventure of for of itself it presents nothin brasig redtand a finall mosque. The beginning of Gibel Etteir, the mouth of MoT dy is feen to the east, it takes its mame from the multi-oris bury tude of kites, hawks, eagles, pharoah fowl, HE northern breeze invites us to continue our journey. One of the advantages of the fituation of Egypt is that of enjoying this falutary wind, more than nine months of the year insbeside tempering the bexcessive heats, distipating destructive vapours, and bearing the clouds into Abyfinia, which, falling in rain, annually produce the inundation, it likewise impels boats against the I Wiles rapid

rapid current: Profit we by its favourable breath, and proceed towards the Upper Thebais. Seated on the deck, and borne on waters, whose surface is as high as the banks, we overlook the furrounding lands, and every moment have new prospects. The minarets of Benifouef are loft in the horizon other villages feem to approach. Here Berangiah half conceals itself under the date-tree shades : yonder Abou Ennour rifes; ar the foot of the mountain; farther fill is Baibai, where the Copts preserve the relicts of SauGeorge. embellished by the rich harvells around it for of itself it presents nothing but hars, and a fmall mosque. The beginning of Gibel Etteir, the mount of birds (d), is feen to the east; it takes its name from the multitude of kites, hawks, eagles, pharoah fowl, and cofficiants, which here dicollect, and hence dart upon their prey. Doves, and imali birds, people the woods, which are at the foot of the rocks : flocks of the ibis, crane, fwan, and flork, refort to the banks of the heats, distingui destructive evapours, and

Egypt, because they are not deftroyed and find food la abundance. Small birds are more uncommon, noitab

coming

Nile which they cover during winter:
flights of pigeons obscure the air more numerous in Egypt than in any other country of the globe, where hamlets and towns are vast pigeon houses, and where their dung is collected, with extreme care, to manure the

verdure, and water a What denging abodes West of the river is Fechnai, named Feno chi in the times of Greece : a large island ope posite raises its verdant head above the war ters, in part covered by various vegetables, cucumbers, and excellent melons. Not far distant is Abou Girga, where the Copts have a convent. Sherouna extends along the foot of the mount of birds. That goals is inhabited by independent Arabs, who pillage the boats they can surprize; and, when troops are fent against them, conceal themselves in the deserts, the well springs of which they know, and where the Turks dare not follow them. The florm over they tree turn, armed, and seize their possessions Tray vellers should always be on their guard, keep centinel, and, during night, occasionally fire their guns, nor suffer any boat to come near theirs, otherwise they risk being robbed and house is established, and at which the boate The

. The eye haturally turns from the sterile rocks, of the earl, to views of failth fields. on the west, where the land is sulfivated to the very brink of the river. In the file of Sohra, is a hamler, the force of which is charming, encircled by trees, corn fields, verdure, and water. What delightful abodes might a polithed nation form in the illes of the Nile! The exotics of all hot countries might here be affembled; orange groves, myrtles, pomegranates, and role-trees planted, the Arabian jalmin, odoriferous inrubs. and American magnolia would thrive here, wonderfully, the banana, the orange, the delicious pine-apple, and every fruit most excellent, would reward their labours. Surembellimed by art, their days would glide happily away, beneath there enchanted hades and bowers. It There, bar, word went daidw withes, waited in the wide and lenfelels air. yet indulge the in the fweet confolation of imagining they thall sometime be realized. We approach the port of Miniah, a tolerable fown, pleasant, populous, and com-mercial, where a Cacher relides, a cultomhouse is established, and at which the boats adEon coming dething from the Said are obliged to fop. and pay duties, according to the merchandize they contain. Here are proken columins, and remains of ancient edifices, which we have reason to suppose were those of Cynopolis (the city of dogs) placed by Strabo and Ptolemy above Fenchi, Its inhabitants held dogs in great veneration; and the priests fed them with facred viands, in honour of Annubis, the companion and guardian of Officis. Strabo (f) marks the feite of Oxyrinchus, inland, at some distance from Cynopolis: feattered marbles and heaps of rubbish, round Behnesa, on the canal of Joseph, determine the polition of that ancient city (g), where the fish the Greeks called Oxyrinchus was held facred. The long plain which extends from the Nile to Bahr Youfeph is very beautiful; wheat, barley, flax, and beans grow, abundantly, in fields watered by rivulets : the dourra and fugar-cape here rife to a great height; the plants are all vi-

and numerous . reheblings

⁽g) Porocke places Oxyrinchus where Girga now flands, which feems to me maccurate; for Strabe politively fave Oxyrinchus was not on the banks of the Wife, but inland.

gorous, and full of fap: the trees all loaded with fruit; the picture of abundance incefar fantly delights the eye; but, alas it is injured, disfigured by the aspect of the huse bandman in rags, and the mud huts in which he mountfully refts, after watering the rich fields with the sweat of his brow, whose produce he must not enjoy: so true it is that wife laws make nations more happy than all the treasures of nature.

Opposite Miniah is the village of Gerabia, and, farther up, that of Saouadi. Here the grottos of the Thebais begin, famous for the autherity of the anchorets who retired hither during the primitive ages of christianity. They extend for twenty leagues, as far as facing Manfelout, and were quarries dug by the Egyptians. The hieroglyphics found in them attest their antiquity.

Above Saouadi begins a forest of dates, which reaches as far as the river. Near this is the isle of Sohra, and villages continue, at small intervals, which, by their number, variety of aspect, and numerous inhabitants, diversity and enliven the views. Near Rodda is the mouth of one of the branches of Bahr Youseph, the other is higher, at the village

of Tarout Eccheny. Norden notices only the mit, and Packer Steard the fecond, but they Both remain. "8 Defcending the canal not Rodds, the banks of which are charming, We enter the grand Bed of Bahr Youleph; on the banks of which is the village Abouting A league to the fouth are the ruins of an ancient city, which chrick the mall town of Babain. Some distance beyond is a cuficits in the body of which a glotto has been cut, fity feet in diameter, and fix deep. The bot tom represents a facilitie to the fun, which is feulptured in demi-relief. On the right, two priests, with pointed caps, raise their arms toward him, and touch the lend of his rays with their fingers behind them two children, with like caps, hold cups for the libetion. Three wood piles, furthined by leven vales, with handles, and placed under the fun, bear flain lambs. On the left are wo young maidens; who are billy attached to the flore by the feet and back of The Arabs have broken off the heads, and diffigured, them with their lances ballarious hieroglyphies give, no doubt, the history of this facrifice, which I believe is meant to 2:12 Jupiter

By Latitus Carifol and orien source carried which the ancient, Egyptians, dangted the syn's estrance intended fign of the range This animal was confectated to him band they then existrated the commencement of the attronomical year, and the renewal of light The monument of have described cut in hard fone, cannot but endure to the Babains bome distance beyong in fing floqueletel Mear Babain is Touns (b) between which village and that of Aboutivite continuonce of the remains of an ancient brick aqueduela by which the waters were conveyed to the feet of the mountains, may be traced of Courte ing Bahr Yousephanes come to Tarons Exchasifi where is the principal mouth of this gread canal Malaqui is thise leagues farther to the morth, a pleafant town fituated eld explicits a give selection with a confidential markets on Reorificos soft all ikinds are here found in shundance, and exceedingly observe The furrounding villages compose a finall principality which was formerly bellowed on Messa. at The Birtir Hadge on prince of Willed, byoSoubo, the Upfer Tante, hear which he marks the source of this great canal. It dondring the ruins of a temple of the Sun. doid w . sonirout aids
Vol. I. Gg the

the Caravan, has a right to fend a Sardan (4) here, as governor ; and he returns, to Grand Cairo, large tributes in grain, which he collects from the inhabitants, and which the Emir Hadge carries to the Scherif of Mecca. Four miles north of Melaoui is Achmounain, somarkable for its magnificent ruins. Among the hills of rubbish that surround it is a stately portico, little injured by time, a hundred feet long, twenty-five wide, and supported by twelve columns, the capital of which is only a small cord. Each is composed of three blocks of granite, forming together fixty feet in height, and twenty four in circumference. The block next the bale is merely rounded, and loaded with hieroglyphics, the line of which begins by a pyramid; the two others are fluted. The columns are ten feet distant, except the two in the center, which, forming the entrance, have an interval of fifteen feet. Ten enormous flones cover the portico, in its whole extent, and these are furmounted by a double row; the two in the centre, which rife with a trinogular

Sir, furprize is wonderfully extraorul rise surprise (i) Sardar lignifies governor, and general, uniting power and the furprise f

diffices which feem the works of Genii.

Front Grans the Whers and grandeur and whickness. an The Spectator Is altonished at beliefing Robes, 100 Pather Tocks, 160 ponderous, railed hary feet high by the art of man. The dirrounding frieze abounds with hteroglyphies, well feulptured, decontaining Agend of birds, Theets, Various animals. what her feated, to whom others feem to present offerings. of Phis, probably; is the lattery of the time, place, and god in whole honour this midnument was erected. W The portied was painted red and blue, which colours are effected in many places, but the bottom of the architrave, round the colonhalf has preferved a gold colour furpilzingly gold sparking an and azure fky, with a dazzling brilliancy. This monument, railed before the Perhan conquert, has neither the elegance not purity of Grecian architecture; but its machinerible folidity, venerable limphicity, and majetty, extort admiration. What mult the temple, of the palace, have been to which this was the entrance for confels, Sir, surprize is wonderfully excited at beholding, amid the Turkith and Arabahuts, edifices which feem the works of Genii. Their Gg 2

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Their Decompercales their value to Europed the ravages of defirmente conquentry and Bearing the implement of signs and agest they in pire the contemplating traveller with ave. Modern Egyptanssview thefe fublime remains of antiquity with militurence, spriger then to while beariff ishul bas droy them would be 1000 much trouble. Superstition and Ignorance believe they renclose treatures ; wherefore, firangers vare linet permitted to take a michial drawing so this would expede them to the loss of life, as what happened to Father Sicard proves While he flood admiring the beauty of this portico, fi Do not kindle thy cenfer, faid the " Arab, his guide, gravely, to him, left we should be taken in the fact, and some " misfortune should follow --- What doft "thou mean? I have neither cenfered not " fire, nor incenfe. - That is a joke : la " Aranger, like thee, doth not come hither " parely out of curiofity .-- Why not it-" I know thy science informs thee in what place the great coffer is concealed, full of " the gold our forefathers have left us, and " should the censer be seen, they would " prefently think thou camelt hither to open e our S T D

is quir coffer by vistne of thy magic words, the ravages of Jules Have Badensonbushed dern Egyptians concerning Europeans, whom they think magicians, and imagine that, when taking the dimensions only of their antiquities, they will be enabled to carry off their treasures : nor will they suffer them to mrite or draw peaceably, but impede there close treasures; wherefore, strangersyand lies aids : grlvbave the bonour to be &c. would expose them to the loss of life, as what happened to Father Sicard, proves. While he flood admiring the beauty of this portico, "Do not kindle thy cenfer, faid the " Arab, his guide, gravely, to him, lest "we should be taken in the fact, and some " misfortune, should follow. - What dost " thou mean? I have neither censer, nor " fire, nor incense. - That is a joke! a " ftranger, like thee, doth not come hither .. ". purely out of cariofity.-Why not ?-.. I know thy fcience informs thee in what Talas the great coffer is concealed, full of "the gold our forelathers have left us, and "" hould thy center be feen; they would " presently think thou camest hither to open 140 149.

e cultivated, fields, abundant in fruits and " grain, IXXX galia Rica The Coliv of the se magi (1), because Pharoah sent hither for The Country from Achmountain to Achmim: de Enfina, Samerly Antimoe in its extent, cres mains of columns, and gates, of beautiful count bisecture s not comparable to the portion grafin Achmounain. har Then principal dorons von be banks of the Nile, with their enviews and bmodern position on Achmin, formerly Chem nomis or Panopolis . Remains of an antique is temple which subfified in the age of Abulfedal ou On! the Serpent Haridi, Twith which the lacMahametan priefter deludent bespeoples woris ni ftreets, forty feet wide, and interlecting each other, in the cMt. M. Tght angles. The laterab sheeps were narrower, but equally

This ancient city (adds the geographer of Nubia) furrounded by well

" cultivated fields, abundant in fruits and " grain, is wulgarly called the city of the " magi (1), because Pharoah sent hither for "thishem, to come to his court," "Twill add fome remarks on the prefent thate of these places Adrian whose frameful vices varnished the splendor of his greatest qualities, having loft Antinous, his favourite, duting his journey in Egypt, was defirous to raife a lasting monument to his memory, and founded a city in his name, tracing the planton level ground and building it with royal magnificences The city was half a league in circumference, and contained two principal streets, forty feet wide, and intersecting each other, in the centre, at right angles. The lateral fireets were narrower, but equally The two principal streets ended straight. with four gates, some of which still remain.

where the Egyptians revere the oracle of the God Befa. one of the most ancient in Egypt, and famous so late as the Emperor Constantius. Ammianus Marcellinus slib.

100) says the neighbouring people all consulted it, and assembled at certain periods, to keep selvivals in its honour, wherefore the Arabs called Antinoc, situated near Abydus, the city of the maginal was people all consulted in the self of the maginal of the people all consulted its honour wherefore the Arabs called Antinoc, situated near Abydus, the city of the maginal of the people all consulted in the people all consul

culti-

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There

There see three exhed southings to the mail high-state asymptonic avide band taxenty shield H the two others are lefe withe fronts of this gath are each prinamented by four pilefteraid in ballour dienos the capitals of which out the one can thus of eating projected confidentily in Eighth Corinthian columns futrounded this find gate and equalled it sin beight one of which only has escaped the ranges of time. and misera the reference breken of defroyed but their padrials remain entire. Befides this schifge atlate are beaps of autibility feen in various parts of the city i remains not pornides and mentablaneres which denote semples or palaces deflucted alfave may judge from the pedefuls found at intervals, along the Merces they were lived by a colemnade that formed a portico on each fide, where the inhabitants might walk in the fliade, which must have produced a charming effect to Ext chilive of these embellishments, one of the iquares was ornamented by four grand columns of the Corinthian order. Three are deftroyed, except the bales; the fourth is perfect, and about fifty feet higher the flusterish composed of feveral stones; on the first of which is an Komans ornament

brimment of cak foliage od On the pederards a Greek interptions half effect of his which Thewart was dedicated to Alexander Several d The Senate of Alexandrians on which her bellowed many benefits, rafter creeting the famous column I to highly praised in a for hi meldeter, railed thefe other found in honour of him after this victories over the Perfished for the oak foliage, on the pedestal of that which remains; was a rocken dofin littory among the Romans of Thefe, Sir, he the most middents belt preferved among the raids of Antinge, the founder of which did not his feriptions and hillorians declare, the arches of the gates, (n) capitals of the columns; and want of hieroglyphics would thew they were mor Egyptian works wor They are ext amples of the good talte and elegance the

(m) It begins thus, To the prosperity of Cafar Marcus
Aurelius Severus Alexander, pious, happy Aurelius being
prefect of the new Greeks of Antinos, these This is legibles continued the bearing and selection of the box on others See Tather Sicond Letters Edifigures who gives the inscription in Greek.

(n) Neither arch nor column of any of the Grecian

orders can be found among the remains of ancience Laype, har Robes, saltonillaingly hinger abounding the of fiveral flones; on the first of anidaylgoraid ornament

Romans

Remans learnt from the Greeks obut not of that majetty delidity, and amazing grandeur, which the people of Egypt imparted to all their works, and which no other nation ever attained. The remains of Antinoc, though magnificent, are infignificant compared to the portice of Achmounain although the latter is the most ancient by infreen hundred years to was a some some and a neith of the portice.

Near this city are the remains of the ancient Abydus, where was the oracle of the god Befarin which place a dervice convent, named Sheik Abada, now stands, Antinge was peopled by christians, toward the close of the fourth century. Palladius fays there were twelve convents of huns, and as many of monks; and, perhaps, the ruin of this small city may be attributed to ! the prodigious number of people who, living in its neighbourhood, wowed celibacy of There are still many coptic monasteries, in the environs, the inhabitants of which are funk in apoverty, and signorance, The fruitful plains which, according to the geographer of Nubia, were round Enfina, have disappeared with the people and barren fands have bende a long iffe the elbesselq risht baqrulu Once 200

Requestion of the selection of the selection of coed up the rivers Youder we behold a coult tinuation of grottes in the incurrant thicks east, formerly inhabited by Anchorets, whole abilimencomist famous ising church himself Their food was bread and water though this andere and contemplative life is les aftonishing than it might be thought, in a hot climate where temperance is a law of they selfity) and meditation an enjoyment, 150 The Nile, ditto groves, di harvefts, wand bundlingo dinous boats, paffing day and night, may be feen from thefe colls, and the thing brook furprizing is they had the resolution to rew main continually idle, amidit that perpetual motion which they incessantly beheld. These grottes extendes far as Manfelout, which finall cown, com the west standing linea fort tile zowetry, die governed by a Oachefolg The Turks have here feveral morques, and a cope tie convent flands facing it; which is alcende ediby means of a pulley; the monks being obliged to take this precaution against the plains which, according tadan scholopericos boThe drigh Toware dove cotes of the village Salem are scent atda distance, and, coasting beside a long isle the elbowing Nile brings dace.

his as a south of estile for any property of the second to any where there have asked any south derves Water Me grounds. 31119 gardens abound mydestables and fruit mees; and its interhon, was all sirincial mount, denotes teleccupies the scite of an ancient city? decerdingly, Weniges of Nicopolis are found, where the fucceeded mille 1899 of bell de low entitle the chief and another august the fine Hat, Rands Aboutig, a very pleasant Mide place, fortherly Aborais, mentioned by Siephen 86. Byzankiumy The Turks there will But Part, has in the time of whileda, base poppy, of which they make option, eagerly Twantowed by the rich 48 inspire agreeable Verenes, the common people content them-West with taking man phis of car helpleaves, falting, which produce finitar effects. Abouting is governed by an Emir! The yoke of there And princes is los gaining than that of the Beys, the people enjoy more tranquilley

o) Pococke wrongly supposes Siout and Anteopolis the same. Ptolemy places Anteopolis higher, and on the other fide of the river. Strabo (lib. 197) says Lycopolis state appearant which runs sinto about the capations of the property of the same which runs sinto about the capations of the same which runs sinto about the read late Morrison and another which are said to be seen to the same with the same with

anden them and are not to much exposed so the transes of the undisciplined troops of Guica. These elders often discover that inpartial justice, bumanity, and affecting bean wolence with which the patriarche governed eaples the feite of an wiceen citycellimatinist the Thenvillage Speech in boys Aboutice in the fucceeded to the small town of Apollo in at forme distance from the river, and partly inhabited by Copte of A very fingular accufation was here presented against Father Sigard Two pative christians went to the governorand told him the foreigner intended to nail up the heads of the Niles with magical nails reand i prevent the inundation by his enchantments alouthis declaration frangely embarraffed the Arab prince, who would have errefled the learned missionary, had not a inniffary who travelled with him become responsible for this person and affirmed the Copto were landerers of This incident Sir. bas sanspongi entra as son as voy svig liw and Anteopolis and Anteopolis and Anteopolis and Anteopolis and Anteopolis and Anteopolis and an and an analysis analysis and an analysis and an analysis and an analysis and an an Among the numerous villages on the banks of the Nilawis Themas governed by a Cacheff and, apposites is a charming and large ifle. Silin, anciently Selinon, flands, Half, concealed. under

some shift of the office administration mountains and Kan Elkobirarsis as miferable place built on the mins of Anteopolis, which city polleded a magnificent temple, etcored by the Egyptians, according to Diodoruso in honour of Anteus, who was wanguished by Hercules: The partice, only, remains, fupported by huge columns, and covered by walt flanes, one of which is thirty feet long, and five wides ... The golden and azure ceiling has preserved the brilliancy of its colours, but this magnificent portice is full of iding; for the Turks affemble their herds there and make a stable of its for highly do they value the greatest works of antiquity ba The villages Coum Elarab, Mechta, rand Shah Tours, extend along the eastern bank, facing Zein Eddin Tatha is governed by a Cachef. and in part furrounded by an arm of the Nile Nothing can be more agrecable than the neighbouring plains, more averdant, wor wealthy in products, for which they are indebted to the river waters. The city of Venus, on the ruins of which, Tathanis raised could not have found a better scite. After coasting up behel river, belide the fife of Shandouil, the high minarets of Achconcernains mim

mim ate feen afar off to Achmim, avs Abor-Mifedagriss a clarge city of Upper Bgyft, 6h 15 the eaftern bank of the Nite, where Ha temple equal to the most refebrated of air-" cient monuments, and built with Hones # amazing for their hze, on which when merable figures are foulprured. Doulnoun (1) was a native of Achmim." Though this city has not retained its ancient Plendor in is still one of the finest in Upper Egype, and governed by an Arab prince. The police is well regulated: the freets are wide and clean; its commerce and agriculture flourish ings v Hereb alegimanufactorields of a cotton clother and portery, which ware stampered throughout Egypt! This is the fame cityeas the Chemmis of Herodotus (19), and the Panopolis (u) of Strabo. It has loft its an cient edifices, and much of its extent if face the ruins of the temple Abolfeda describes now fland north of the city, the only 761

wealthy with the wealth was a wealth w

and that his descendents ordained sessions is the city;

(u) The city of Pan. This delty was adored here.

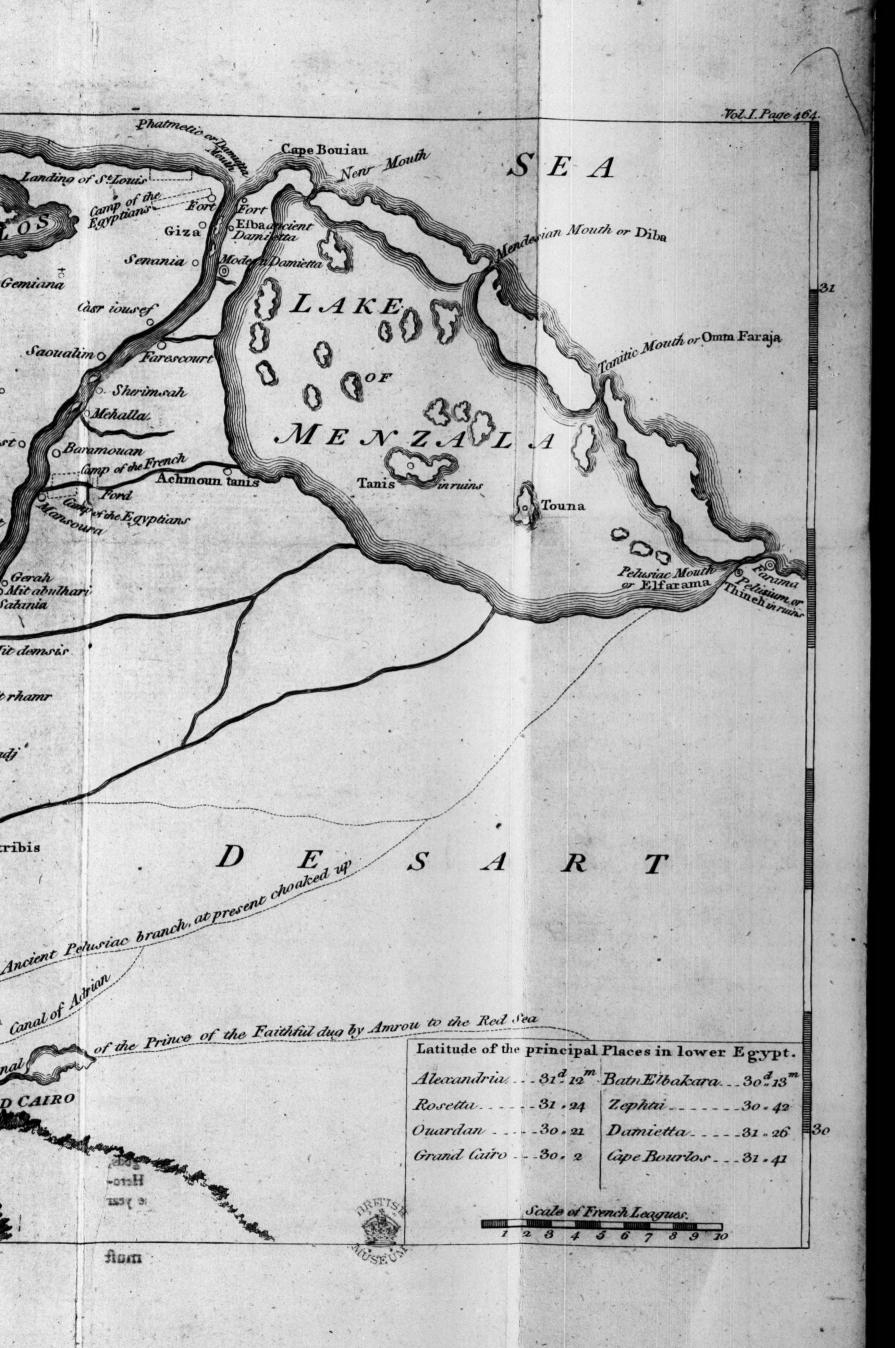
mains

nism

mains of which are fome Rones to large the Turks could not move them, which contain many hieroglyphics, and one of them is feulprared after an extraordinary manner. Four concentric gircles are drawn within a fquare, and the fun is in the centre one: The two following, divided into twelve parts, include, one of them, twelve birds, and, the other, twelve animals, nearly effected, which feem to have been the figns of the zodiac. The fourth has no divisions, but contains twelve human figures (x). The four featons are at the angles of the fquare. befide which is a winged globe. This stone. probably, belonged to a temple dedicated to the Sun, and the hieroglyphics indicated his passage through the figns of the zodiac, and his annual revolution; a testimony the Egyptians enjoyed astronomical knowledge from the most remote antiquity. The columns of this temple have been in part destroyed, to procure lime and millstones.

twelve months, and twelve figns of the modiac. Herodotus, (lib. 2.) fays the Egyptians first divided the year
into twelve months, and named the twelve gods.

Pl.III Sebennitic Mont Cape Bourlos Bourlos MEDVITERRANEAN Castles Canopical Ste Gemiana Butis in ruins 0 Berimbal Madia Saor Djedie Demaia o © Metelis ALEXANDRIA Escanderia Casr Solim Diasto of Alexandria Mehalla Malek Damanhour 3 Bakmanie Taposiris parva Taouila Safe 32 Scite Ennatif o of Lake Mareotis Mehalla © Sebennitu Gerah Mit abu Mehalla Elleben Boust Satunia Bufiris Shabour Mit dems Zephta Mit rhamr Tanta Saouafe 0 0.Amrous Saradj' Koum sherik Tafana Monasteries of the Desert inhabited by the Copts Nadir Mitber Menhou April Atribis Monastry of O Menhor Tot the Will Share mone of Sea of E. 34 Kings or Dagoua Abou Shaouach Faraounia Ouardan O Ancient Zoufeti Elarksas Cercaforum Canal Kelioub. Mataras Canal Enbaha o Boulac GRAND CALL the stade of milion are sall found in the Darage. Giza Great Pyram Pyramids of Saccard



I must not quit Achmim, Sir, without mentioning its miraculous ferpent. Above a century fince, a Turkish priest, named Schellk Haridi, who paffed for a faint, died here, and had a tomb built over him, with a cupola, at the foot of the mountain, to which people came from all parts to pray. Another priest, profiting by their credulity, perfuaded them God had commanded the Tpirit of Scheilk Haridi into the body of a Serpent, many of which, that are harmless, are found in the Thebais. One of these he had taught to obey him, and, appearing with his ferpent, dazzled the vulgar, by furprizing tricks, and pretended it had power over all difeases. Some happy cures, which nature or imagination wrought, gave it great celebrity; and the ferpent Haridi would no longer leave his tomb, except for princes and wealthy persons. The successors of this prieft, following his principles, had little trouble to increase the credit of this advantageous error, and they affirmed, exclusive of its first virtue, it was immortal. Of this they pretended to make a public trial; the ferpent was cut to pieces, in the Emir's presence, and deposited, two hours, un-Vol. I. der Hh

decia sale, Tiliste, as they raifed it, the priency action of the particular of the Andrews dtheriw This thindles was specialistical, and the himbronal Haridis acquired indus remodel They profit greatly byothkir deseits geinte come stromballuparts gonpray at title tonship andseifenthe despent appearsofromediader abe from, band approaches the interceffor, nit issa figurabe fick person shall be curedit You thay well-supposes Sir, the appears gibt will an officie inguis medebworthy of the wealth and quality of the personi T In extraordinary grafes, when the fick bannot be dured unless the ferpent be presents appure virgin must go and folicit? anti-that they may be contained remy young Little de proposition de la fine la fine la fine la fire la fi and with a garland of flowers. - After the has prayed, the farpent according to the prices intention, makes circles round the young fuppliant, and comes and reposes upon her. The virgin, accompanied by multitudes of people, and vast acclamations, then carries it off in triumph, 'Tis not in the power of reason to persuade these credulous ignorant Egyptians they are the dupes of knaves; they believe as fincerely in the serpent Haridi as in their prophet: the very christians no more

deds safe Tilade, nade optive the duote who affirm this forpent is the demon Afriodouse who killed the feven hulbands of the wife of Tobias, and that the angel HRaphaele infect baying metamorphofed him, brought while hither, that God might thus edeceive infidels. rabThenferpent has acted a miranulous part in the history of man; she feduced Evel and; saty the command of Mofes idevoured thole of the Egyptians, made Alexander of Aboniteichosipals for a god; and how cures the lick people of Achmima! This ferpent is of the fame species with those Herodotus dela fcribes, which were facred among the and cient Egyptians who called them Agatho Daimones, (Arjaharapaires) Good Genii şi and they were the types of Criephing symbolical prayed, the Ranboogsonivib gnielingil cyale intention, makes circles round the young suppliant, and comes and reposes upon her. The virgin, accompanied by multitudes of people, and vall acclamations, then carries it off in triumph, 'Tis not in the power of reason to persuade these credulous ignorant Egyptians they are the dupes of knaves; they believe as fincerely in the ferpent Haridi as in their prophet: the very christians no More

cross double its virtue than the Purity but aftions stills thepent its the diemon's fine four who killed the fiven hulbands of the wife of Tobies, and allate the angel Rashades enideT having metamorpheded him, brought him buther, that God raight thus' cleave inch dels a The forpeat has e Sei a mismillor pros in the history of man; he feliced live, the the con manual of Marie developed to those of the property of the do show of Abdeniens A The how water the fick profice for zi igazga) Lutt - Mac Vill mit on lo in failers, which were exched alleger the ancient Egyptians, who collect their Agains Dajmones, (Ar teragenes) Cold Gooff & and they were the types of Chephy a feminolical delay, fightiging divine gordnets.

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